

pension was taken into account when the various salaries and value of the emoluments were fixed.

Now, forsooth, he *may* obtain, irrespective of his record of good and long service, between 55 and 60 years of age, a pension (*of at least one-third of his actual salary*, or at most of two-thirds of his salary and emoluments), but the actual amount of which depends upon the caprice or temper of the awarding body which may then be in office.

Even apart from these wide limits the scheme is too elastic, every provision being so arranged as to be possibly set aside or to be modified indefinitely. The minimum age at which a pension may be ordinarily granted is fixed by the Lunacy Act of 1890 at 50 years, yet this is overridden and other five years added in this scheme, making the minimum age 55 years. The age for compulsory retirement proposed in this scheme is 60 years. Few attendants on the insane are fit for active duty after 55 years, as long service in an asylum has, without doubt, a markedly deteriorating effect both mentally and physically.

One could name several counties, some of far less extent and importance than Lancashire, where definite and equitable pension schemes have been adopted, and which have given general satisfaction.

Besides Lancashire, the following counties have adopted pension schemes during the last few months:—

*Wills County Asylum*.—Only those in continuous contact with patients are eligible for pensions. Minimum age and service is 50 and 15 years respectively. The scale adopted is one-fiftieth of salary and value of emoluments for every year of service up to 20; for each succeeding year up to 25 an addition of two-fiftieths to the above and a corresponding addition for further years of service up to a maximum of two-thirds of annual salary and emoluments. No age has been fixed for compulsory retirement.

*Devon County Asylum*.—The same restriction as to persons eligible exists. The minimum age and service is 50 and 15 years. The allowances made are not more than one-fortieth nor less than the one-fiftieth of salary and net value of the emoluments for every year served, the minimum being fifteen-fiftieths and maximum twenty-six-fortieths or twenty-six-fiftieths or fraction between these latter points at the discretion of the Committee.

*Derby County Asylum*.—Rule as to eligibility similar to the above. "A service of 15 years shall entitle an official of 50 years of age to a pension, but no pension shall exceed two-thirds of pay and emoluments at date of retirement." The following standing scale is adopted: One-fiftieth of pay and emoluments per annum for every year's service, with a minimum age of 50 years and a minimum and maximum of service respectively of 15 and 26 or 34 years. Under special circumstances the pension may be one-fortieth, with a maximum of twenty-six-fortieths, but that as to the one-fiftieth scale, persons eligible may claim it as of right. Resignation shall be optional at the age of 50, but compulsory at the age of 55.

*Cornwall Lunatic Asylum*.—No restrictions as to eligibility. (1) "A service of 15 years shall entitle any officer 50 years of age to a pension." (2) The scheme provides one-fortieth of pay and emoluments for every year's service, with a minimum of age of 50 years and a minimum and maximum of service respectively of 15 and 26 years. No age has been fixed for compulsory retirement.

All the above schemes have provisions for granting pensions earlier in cases of confirmed sickness or disability from injury received in the actual performance of duty.

#### DR. LOCKHART ROBERTSON'S RETIREMENT.

At a meeting of the Board of the Lord Chancellor's Visitors in Lunacy, held at the Royal Courts of Justice on the 14th January last, the following resolution was passed:—"Resolved that the Board express their regret at the retirement of Dr. Lockhart Robertson owing to impaired health, and further beg to express their appreciation of his distinguished and useful services during a period of 26 years."

Dr. Lockhart Robertson's resignation removes a prominent and distinguished personality from the active ranks of our specialty. A slight outline of his past work will, we are assured, be of interest to his fellow associates.

Dr. Robertson's earliest appointment, after a short service as an Assistant Surgeon in the Army, was the post of Assistant Staff-Surgeon to the Military Asylum at Yarmouth, which he held for five years, and during this period assisted the late Dr. Ranking, of Norwich, in preparing his "half-yearly abstract," in which his thorough knowledge of French and German was of great service.

His tenure of office at Yarmouth having expired, he resigned the Army service, entered at Cambridge, graduated as M.B. in 1853, and practised as an alienist physician for four years in London. In 1858 he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Sussex County Asylum, then in course of erection. This post he held until 1870, when he was appointed Lord Chancellor's Visitor.

His management of the Sussex Asylum was distinguished by marked originality, and soon rendered it one of the institutions to which alienist physicians from other countries paid special attention.

His literary contributions, not only to the pages of this Journal, but to the *Lancet*, *British Medical Journal*, and the *Brighton Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, were numerous and varied, especially bearing on the treatment and modes of care and accommodation of the insane poor. He also translated, in conjunction with Dr. Rutherford, Griesenger's classical work *Mental Pathology and Therapeutics*, published by the New Sydenham Society in 1867.

With the Medico-Psychological Association his connection has been long and intimate. From 1855 to 1862 he was General Secretary, and from 1862 to 1870 he edited this Journal in association with Dr. Maudsley. In 1867 he was President, and it will be remembered how ably he presided over the Mental Diseases Section of the International Medical Congress in 1881. Even this number of the Journal contains a record of a valuable presentation of books to our latest departure, the library.

This Association, therefore, is deeply indebted to Dr. Robertson for his past services, and its members must unanimously unite in the hope that Dr. Robertson's health may be so restored, by relief from his duties, that he may long enjoy his well-earned and honourable rest.

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#### DR. NICOLSON'S APPOINTMENT.

The succession of our highly-esteemed President to the post of Lord Chancellor's Visitor, vacated by Dr. Robertson, will be generally hailed with intense satisfaction. There is always some apprehension that these appointments may be in a measure biased by personal motives. On the present occasion there can be no doubt that intrinsic merit has decided the question, and we can, therefore, heartily congratulate Dr. Nicolson on the promotion which has resulted from his long and able services at Broadmoor, and the distinguished ability that he has so often manifested.

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#### PRESENTATION TO SIR ARTHUR MITCHELL.

On the 24th of January last, in the library of the Society of Antiquaries, Queen Street, Edinburgh, Sir Arthur Mitchell was presented with his portrait, along with other gifts to Lady Mitchell and himself, on the occasion of his retirement from the General Board of Lunacy. Lord Kinnear occupied the chair, and there was a large and representative gathering of Sir Arthur's friends.

After reading letters of apology for absence, Dr. ROBERT MUNRO, Hon. Secretary of the Committee, read a report recalling the steps which had led up to the present gathering. It mentioned that at a meeting held in December, 1894, under the presidency of Sir Douglas Maclagan, it was agreed that the occasion of Sir Arthur Mitchell's retirement from the Lunacy Board was a fitting opportunity of testifying in some tangible form the respect and regard entertained for him