

disorder in the patients experimented upon, and that each turned away in disgust from spirits which the stomach could no longer assimilate. The remedy, in addition, possesses powerful qualities of regeneration, due to an unknown substance called "stimulithe." M. Broca proposes that the serum should be named "Antiethylene," and is convinced that the committee will, by continuing the experiments, soon be able to define the new serum clearly. At present it seems to have no effect upon the organic changes consequent on chronic alcoholism; and the Academy has been informed that, while it abrogates the taste for brandy, the taste for wine is preserved unimpaired! Some of us are even yet unfashionable enough to prefer wine.

ASYLUM CONSTRUCTION.

Many new asylums have been built within the last few years, and by an interesting return obtained by the county of Worcester it would appear that great consideration has been given to the problems of construction by local authorities. Comparatively few invited competitive plans. Most of the architects were selected, either on account of their eminence and experience, or on account of their local connections. The general rate of remuneration would appear to have been 5 per cent. Not a few appointed committees of inspection, and it is to be regretted that this course is not more commonly adopted. We are strongly of opinion that the medical superintendent should be appointed in the first instance, and that he should so advise his committee that they would proceed to the formidable task before them in the light of his knowledge of special requirements, and with him to advise as to which of the existing institutions should be visited. Progress in this direction has been mainly on the initiative of the medical superintendents, and each should, in so far as possible, develop ideas in building and construction. We are glad to note that the acreage held by the committees of recently erected asylums is on the whole satisfactory, although there are still too many content with fifty or sixty acres. The cost per head calculated on the number of patients is stated at sums varying from £150 to £420. These calculations and returns, however, must be received with caution, for there are so many considerations entering into the question that economical management in one locality might be the very reverse in another.

COMPLIMENTARY.

PRESENTATION TO SIR JOHN SIBBALD.

At a meeting of Sir John Sibbald's friends in February of last year it was resolved to present him with his portrait, painted by the President of the Royal Scottish Academy. On the 22nd of December last the presentation was made in the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. The Master of Polwarth occupied the chair, and before calling on Dr. Yellowlees made complimentary reference to Sir John Sibbald's work in connection with the Lunacy Board.

Dr. YELLOWLEES, who spoke in the unavoidable absence of Sir William Gairdner, in the course of his remarks said—I recall a great many memories in going back over Dr. Sibbald's career. I remember him long ago when he went to be resident physician at Perth Infirmary. Afterwards he went to be resident in Brompton Consumption Hospital. He was nearly settling down as a London practitioner. Happily he did not do so, but took to the line in which he distinguished himself. Of all the memories by far the most vivid are those associated with Morningside. I look back on that as the best period of my life. But if I once began with reminiscences I should not know where to stop, although we have scarcely ever met without recalling reminiscences of these days, and of our honoured chief, Dr. Skae. After that memorable time Dr. Sibbald went to Lochgilphead Asylum. That asylum was opened and organised by him. Sir John Sibbald, I am sure, will be the first to acknowledge and recognise that his experience there was invaluable in future administrative work. I remember him leaving that post to become deputy Commissioner, and the long years of earnest and unobtrusive work he did in that