

EX-SERVICE MEN IN ASYLUMS.

PARLIAMENT AND THEIR TREATMENT.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes:—

There is a strong sentiment in all quarters of the House of Commons with regard to the treatment of ex-Service men in pauper lunatic asylums. The slogan of "fit for service, fit for pension" may not be unreservedly accepted everywhere, but it is a rough-and-ready expression of the feeling that the ex-soldier, whether whole or disabled, in body or mind, should not be left to the care of the Poor Law.

There is no complaint about the terms of the Royal Warrant. It is recognized that the ground of claim to benefit must be disablement, either caused or aggravated by war service. The cases of men who were in the Army for no more than a few days, and whose condition was immediately discovered, are in another category from those of men who had actual war experience. There is no doubt that the House of Commons as a whole would be glad of a complete assurance that no ex-Service man, in the true meaning of the term, is handed over to Poor Law treatment, even though he may have had a pre-war record of mental trouble.