

Club Wards [Die Kameradschaft]. (*Psych.-Neurol. Woch.*, No. 16, April 21, 1928.) Bresler, F.

Dr. Bresler discusses the provision, in mental hospitals, of open and free wards or villas, in which there is no permanent supervision by the staff. Regular or occasional visiting may be arranged, or the ward may be left entirely unattended. Selected patients are placed in charge, and entrusted with responsibility for the good order of these wards. The patients are to regard themselves as living in a common mess or club rather than in a hospital ward. The system owes its inception to Mönkemöller, and Dr. Bresler proposes the latter's name to designate wards of this type.

A. WALK.

Family Care of the Insane in Present-day Germany [Die Familienpflege Kranksinniger im heutigen Deutschland]. (*Psych.-Neurol. Woch.*, Nos. 16 and 17, April 21 and 28, 1928.) Bufe, E.

A system of boarding-out exists in connection with the majority of German mental hospitals. The boarded-out patients remain attached to the hospital and are placed with families resident in the immediate vicinity; they are attended by the staff of the hospital. Their numbers are small compared with the total patients resident in the hospital itself; about 2-5% is the average proportion, though some institutions board out as many as 10% of their patients. The system differs from that seen in colonies founded on the Gheel model, where a small central hospital serves a large population of patients in family care, and from the Scottish and Norwegian practice, in which small numbers of patients are dispersed over a wide area and do not remain in close connection with any institution. It must also be distinguished from "open supervision," which applies to patients who do not need institutional care and can remain in their own homes, subject to regular visitation and assistance. Family care of the insane was largely in abeyance during the war and post-war periods, but is now again firmly established. The author discusses the advantages of the system and lays stress especially on its economy; he believes that a saving to the institution will result even if paid labour has to be employed to replace boarded-out working patients.

A. WALK.

6. Mental Hospital Reports.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birmingham City Mental Hospitals.—Dr. Graves, in his capacity as Chief Medical Officer, reports on the work of the three mental hospitals under his supervision for the year 1927, and especially on the investigations and treatment of physical disease processes.

Of 531 cases admitted oral sepsis was recognized in 77%, and the dental surgeon reports that this percentage is higher than that met with in private practice—presumably of the same class.