

Another circumstance to which Dr. Manning draws attention in his report equally deserves the attention of the Colonial Government. It is that, from deficient hospital accommodation and other circumstances, large numbers of persons are treated for symptoms of insanity in the prisons of the Colony. With the crowded and unsuitable condition of some of the existing asylum accommodation, it may well be doubted whether the patients thus treated are not, in most respects, as well circumstanced as they would be if they were removed to the asylums, but neither the fact nor its cause are matters upon which the Colony has reason to congratulate itself, or which will be likely to lessen the ultimate burden which will fall upon the ratepayers.

The average cost of patients in the hospitals for the insane has been for the year 1879, 12s. 8½d. per head per week.

Dr. Manning concludes an able and interesting Report by printing *in extenso* his entries at the various asylums on the occasions of his visits, and the reports which have been transmitted to him by their several superintendents, all of which give assurance that the members of our specialty are doing good service, and maintaining the credit of the old country in one of the most important of her colonial possessions.

*Congrès International de Médecine Mentale. Tenu à Paris du 5 au 10 Août, 1878. Comptes Rendus Sténographiques. Paris, 1880.**

I.

1. *Presidential Address.* By Dr. Baillarger.
2. *On the Protection afforded by the Law of the 30th June, 1838, against the so-called Criminal Lunatics.* By Dr. Billod.
3. *What Measures should be taken as regards the so-called Criminal Lunatics.* By Dr. Huzony.
4. *On the so-called Criminal Lunatics.* By Dr. Dagonet.
5. *Broadmoor, the State Asylum for Criminal Lunatics in England.* By Dr. D. Hack Tuke.
6. *On Measures to be taken as regards the so-called Criminal Lunatics.*
7. *Supplementary Meetings of the 6th and 7th of August, 1878.—On the so-called Criminal Lunatics.—On Criminal Lunatic Asylums (Les Asiles de Sûreté).*
8. *Statistics of the Special Infirmary at Gaillon.* By Dr. Hurel.

The Presidential Address, by Dr. Baillarger, after thank-

* *President*—Dr. Baillarger; *Vice-Presidents*—Professor Lasègue, Drs. Semal, Echeverria, Hack Tuke, Mierzejewski, Giacchi. *Secs.*—Drs. Motet and Ritti.

ing the members for their answer to the call made by the Société Médical Psychologique, and bidding them the most fraternal welcome, sketches, in rapid characters, the advance of mental science since the beginning of the century. The discovery of general paralysis stands foremost, as it has wrought a change in the ætiology, symptomatology, prognosis, and, above all, in the pathological anatomy of mental diseases. Improvement in the organisation and management of asylums, and the occupation—chiefly agricultural—of their inmates, have contributed to clinical progress. The therapeutical advancement has been less striking, although the number of cures has increased in a notable proportion. Dr. Baillarger refers himself to French asylums, for this remark as to the less striking progress in therapeutics of mental diseases scarcely applies to England or America, where the results are so remarkable and obvious. Indeed, no greater therapeutical progress could have been achieved as regards both the use and the non-use of drugs, and the substitution for undue restraint of a more humane treatment, accompanied by a nutritious diet, with other hygienic measures and the systematic occupation of the patient, so properly pointed out as of the first importance by Baillarger. If proofs were needed for our statements, the results at Bethlem, Wakefield and the York Retreat amply afford them.

Allusion was also made by Dr. Baillarger to the usefulness of the establishment of the Medico-Legal Society of Paris, which, by drawing nearer the legal and medical professions, has already contributed to remove their dissent, with the most practical and beneficial results.

Every country has shared in the accomplishment of the progress in psychological science, while model establishments erected all over Europe and America appear to have reached the highest degree of excellence.

“The different kinds of assistance of the insane,” says, in conclusion, Dr. Baillarger, “the advantages and disadvantages of large and small asylums, of establishments exclusively devoted to the treatment of convalescents under special conditions to be determined, are subjects, as you are aware, which have been very much discussed; but who would venture, however, to assert that all such questions have received a definite reply? Who could answer, above all, whether the progress of science shall not bring forth other new difficulties to be surmounted? We should, therefore, keep carrying on our inquiries with ever-increasing energy to perfect the work of our predecessors;

for never, gentlemen, in aiming at the relief of such a great misfortune as insanity, could improvement and well being prove inimical to each other."

If it were necessary to demonstrate the wisdom of our provisions for the best management of criminal lunatics, the facts exposed at the International Congress in Paris would plainly do it. Considerable difference of opinion is entertained in France in regard to this question, which has awakened a legitimate interest, after having so long remained entirely neglected; while no less striking, and radically different from ours, are the ambiguous ideas, or exaggerated tendencies, of many French alienists in reference to the care specially needed by criminal lunatics, and their commitment and discharge from the asylum.

Dr. Billod thinks that, in regard to criminal lunatics who were insane before their deed, and continue so thereafter, the law of the 30th June, 1838, is perfect, and needs no amendment. Not so, however, in respect to criminal lunatics whose insanity is over after the crime, though liable to recur at any moment, and who should be, consequently, and by right, liberated. Against this class of cases the safety of society remains wholly unprotected. Moreover, the cure of a criminal lunatic is altogether hypothetical, and yet the law enacts that, as soon as he shall be no more insane, he shall be no longer confined in the lunatic asylum, but set at liberty, with more or less chances of displaying the same proclivities that occasioned the first crime. Furthermore, his detention at the asylum shall be in violation of the law, and no magistrate could oppose his discharge. Dr. Billod feels no scruples, however, in always abstaining himself from recommending the discharge of any dangerous lunatic who might recover in his asylum, whenever he feels convinced that his discharge shall be followed by a relapse. He pursues this course principally with those dangerous lunatics whose insanity proceeds from alcoholism, and is inevitably bound to relapse, as he manifested by some examples.

On the whole, Dr. Billod agrees with the general opinion as to the necessity of not liberating such criminal lunatics as these. But where should they be confined? Hitherto this perplexing alternative has been evaded by violating the law, which Dr. Billod deeply regrets, and, to avoid it, he suggests an addition to the law. Recovered criminal lunatics who, in the opinion of a commission of physicians, remain

exposed to a relapse with characters as dangerous as those of the first attack, should continue in confinement. Magistrates should be empowered to order their commitment, just the same as they order, in the case of criminal minors, their confinement in a House of Correction, together with their acquittal.

Part of this legislative measure should be the erection of separate quarters, or rather of special establishments, for criminal lunatics, as those in England. Two of the latter will suffice for the criminal lunatics in France, who do not amount to more than 600, according to Dr. Billod's calculation.

Besides the so-called criminal lunatics, there is another category of dangerous lunatics to whom the preceding remarks are equally applicable. The character of their deeds is no less dreadful and dismal than those of the homicidal, the pyromaniacs, &c. In illustration, Dr. Billod cites the case of a patient who, during the night, escaped from the Vaucluse Asylum. He had been a signalman on the railroad. Carried by the recollection of his former employment towards the Orleans line, not far from Epinay Station, he began to displace the signal disks, and would have caused by this the most appalling catastrophe, by a collision of trains, had not his mischief been timely discovered.

Reasoning madmen are no less to be feared, and political men are frequent victims of their harassing delusions. The animosity displayed by Sandon against one of the last Imperial Ministers is well known. Such was the lucidity of this lunatic that his violent charges against that personage were far from remaining without echo, many persons believing at the arbitrary confinement of Sandon in a lunatic asylum. His death at the Hôtel Dieu, in the division of Dr. Hérard, and the autopsy made by Dr. Lionville, demonstrated cerebral lesions incompatible with mental soundness. Professor Lasègue has also been the object of aim of one of these reasoning maniacs.

Society should be protected against this class of lunatics, and to secure it, no revision of the law is needed. All that is required is to apply it with energy, and without being imposed upon by the appearances of lucidity exhibited by such patients.

(To be continued.)