

GRANT FOR IRISH ASYLUM.

The Chief Secretary, in a long letter to Mr. Redmond, M.P., under date 10th May last, explained that the changes involved by the Local Government Act have not injuriously affected the finances of the Irish asylums. He pointed out that the 4s. grant is an aid to the expenses of the year in which it is paid, and not a repayment of the expenditure of the previous year; and that the alteration implied by the closing of accounts on the 31st March, instead of the 31st December, has really resulted in a slight benefit to the institutions.

ASYLUM NEWS.

Claybury Asylum.—It is reported that the Committee of the Claybury Asylum have decided to discontinue the employment of women as Assistant Medical Officers in that institution, on the ground that they are unequal to the heavy duties demanded of them; but they recommend to the County Council that Dr. Emily Dove should be paid £270 as compensation for the abolition of her office.

Mullingar Asylum.—An epileptic patient died recently in Mullingar Asylum after eating a small quantity of yew leaves, which he had plucked in the grounds of the institution. The evidence at the inquest showed that death had resulted from failure of the heart's action after an epileptic seizure, death having been accelerated by eating the yew leaves. The jury recommended that all poisonous trees in the grounds of the Mullingar Asylum should be fenced. A circular of the Scottish Board of Lunacy issued in 1871 contained a similar warning. It is doubtful, however, if the gardens and grounds of asylums are generally secure against all poisonous trees, plants, and fungi.

Exeter Workhouse.—Dr. Woodman reports, in the *British Medical Journal* of 29th June, a case of attempted suicide by drinking Jeyes' fluid. A man, aged 31, drank a pint and a quarter of the undiluted fluid, and was shortly found unconscious, collapsed, and almost pulseless. The breathing was stertorous and the pupils contracted. After a hypodermic injection of brandy, the stomach-tube was passed and the stomach washed out. Two days afterwards he had slight pain in the throat and stomach, and he entirely recovered within a week. Dr. Woodman remarks on the slight effects upon the œsophagus and stomach, and it is of importance to asylum physicians to know that the comparative safety of this powerful disinfectant, claimed by the proprietors of Jeyes' fluid, has been proved in this experimental manner. A similar amount of crude carbolic acid must have been necessarily fatal. In 1891 in England and Wales ninety-five persons died from the latter poison.

Lancashire Asylums.—The *Manchester Guardian* of 18th March referred to the deficient asylum accommodation in the Lancashire asylums. At Preston a man had been charged with wandering at large when in an unsound state of mind, and the Magistrates' Clerk said that was the third case within a month. Mr. Blackhurst, who appeared for the police, said the workhouse authorities refused to take him, alleging lack of accommodation and attendants. Replies that there were no vacancies had been received from Whittingham, Prestwich, and Lancaster Asylums. The magistrates' clerk had written to the Home Secretary, who had replied "that in such a case he thought that rather than allow him to go at large it was not only justifiable, but was the duty of the police to detain him till provision had been made for his proper custody. In doing so care must be taken to treat the lunatic, as far as their means allowed, in the manner proper to his condition. It was probable, however, that at the workhouse better means existed for a lunatic's detention than at a police station, and therefore if some time must elapse before he could be received in an asylum, further pressure should be brought to bear on the workhouse authorities to take charge of him."

The Bench made an order for the man to be detained as long as necessary, pending his removal to an asylum.

Again on the 13th August the same newspaper records that: "at a meeting of the Guardians of the Stockport Union the chairman stated that, while they could get places in Cheshire asylums for cases occurring in the Cheshire part of the Union, there were cases in the workhouse from the Lancashire side for