

Bill"). An objectionable portion of the Bill is, that, in place of encouraging voluntary patients and visitors to reside in the licensed asylums, it places an obstacle in their way, and interferes with a just right that even a supposed lunatic or a visitor has to select the place for treatment of a disease, which is in most, if not all cases, only partial, not complete. It is manifest the residence of such voluntary inmates must be a great protection and social advantage to the involuntary inmates. The effort of legislation should be to afford all prudent liberty, and encourage all asylum proprietors to make their establishments comfortable homes and hospitals for the treatment of disease, and not merely prisons for detention. None but medical practitioners of standing and substantial means should be licensed, and such licensed asylums should not be limited to the number of patients at present licensed for (which would effectually prevent improvement of the establishments), but it should, as now, be left to the discretion of the licensing power. One of the most important provisions of any Act is that of judicial inspection, which is so well performed in the case of Chancery lunatic patients. What might be best may be to extend that system, and let the Lunacy Office of the Court of Chancery appoint all the inspectors or special inspectors, subject to the Lord Chancellor, to visit, report upon, and control all matters relating to private lunatic asylums, and the licensing power of the few such asylums should rest with the Lord Chancellor. Considering the increasing number of Chancery lunatics in such asylums this would seem most reasonable and natural. The Lord Chancellor should represent the Government as head of the Lunacy Department in all respects. This would increase the confidence of the public. Perhaps as the pauper lunatic asylums are so closely allied to workhouses the details of such might in a good degree be left to the Boards of Guardians, with an annual inspection of responsible Chancery visitors to report upon their general condition to the Lunacy Office of the Court of Chancery. If Mr. Corbet's Bill was passed the result would be that nearly all the patients in the present private licensed asylums in Ireland would be transferred to the private licensed asylums in England, and their vested rights would profit in the same proportion as the confiscated Irish asylums would lose—a result overlooked by the framers of the Irish Bill.

Dr. COURTENAY moved that the thanks of the Association are due to Dr. Eustace for his views on the proposed legislation with regard to the private asylums of Ireland, the result of his long and varied experience.

LUNACY ACTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

It is so seldom that lawyers find anything good to say of Lunacy Acts that we think the following, for which we are indebted to Dr. Norton Manning, the Inspector General of the Lunacy Department, N. S. W., may be interesting to our readers. The Act in New South Wales allows of admission at the request of friends, but provides that the signature of the person signing shall be witnessed by a justice or a clergyman licensed to celebrate marriages. The magistrate does not see the patient or act in any way medically, but merely as a witness to the signature.

*Extracts from the Law Reports, Chancery Division. Part 12.
December 1st, 1887.*

T.P. 287, *et seq.*

In re Barlow's will.

"A lady detained in a lunatic asylum in New South Wales was entitled for life to the income (about £30 a year) of one-third of testator's residuary income, and was absolutely entitled to a fund of about £2,000, which had arisen from accumulations. She had for years been maintained by the Colonial Government at a total expense of £803. By the New South Wales Lunacy Act extensive powers of management of property of lunatic patients

were given to the Master in Lunacy of New South Wales. The Master claimed to have the accumulations, which were in England, paid to him."

Appeal heard before Lord Justice Cotton, Lord Justice Bowen, and Lord Justice Fry.

Lord Justice Cotton. Extract from judgment.

"We have been referred to the Lunacy Act of New South Wales, passed in February, 1879, and undoubtedly that Act contains provisions which make it practically impossible that anyone should be in an asylum without sufficient reason."

Lord Justice Bowen, in *re* Barlow's will. Extract from judgment.

"I desire most emphatically to add my voice to what has been said by the Lord Justice as to the provisions of the colonial legislation being above all comment and criticism as regards these insane patients. We have the most ample confidence not only in the legislation, but in the officers of the colony who administer the law, and I myself feel no doubt that the interests of the lunatic would be as well cared for by the Master in Lunacy in the Colony as they would be cared for by the Master in Lunacy here if she was here, and that she is surrounded by all the protection and safeguards that could reasonably be invented for the purpose of taking care of her and of her property."

THE STOMACH-PUMP SUPERSEDED.

Under the above heading, Dr. Yellowlees writes a letter to the "Lancet" advocating the use of a bottle which has evidently much to recommend it in cases requiring forced feeding. It has been used by Dr. Yellowlees for some years at Gartnavel, where we have seen it. It must be remembered, however, that the stomach-pump has been already superseded by various other contrivances, such as the simple tube and funnel, without using the pump; the single or double nasal tube; and, simplest of all, the introduction of liquids by a tea-spoon or funnel into one of the nostrils. We should say that few asylums now resort to the pump itself. Under the "German Retrospect" will be found a mental physician's reasons against using any mode of forced alimentation whatever.

The following is the letter referred to:—

To the Editors of the 'Lancet.'

SIRS,—The recent correspondence as to the use of covered funnels in feeding by the stomach tube leads me to give greater publicity to a far better contrivance, which I devised many years ago, and constantly use here. An ordinary twenty-ounce bottle, perforated near the bottom by a small tap for the admission of air, and a long stomach tube bearing a cork which fits the mouth of the bottle, constitute the whole apparatus. The food being mixed in the bottle, the tube is introduced, the cork placed in the mouth of the bottle, the bottle inverted and raised, and the air-tap opened, when the food passes quickly into the stomach in a continuous stream. Great injecting force can be at once applied if required by *blowing* through the air-tap, to which a small rubber tube is attached for this purpose. For simplicity, cleanliness, efficiency, and perfect inspection this plan leaves nothing to be desired, and solid nourishment can be thus given in many forms, as there is no tap to obstruct its passage, and as the food can be kept in agitation within the bottle during administration. No one who has used this contrivance will wish for any other. It is equally available for emptying the stomach by lowering the bottle and establishing a syphon action by suction. Messrs. Hilliard and Sons, Glasgow, supply the apparatus.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,
D. YELLOWLEES, M.D.

Royal Asylum, Gartnavel, Glasgow,
May 12th, 1888.