

the work of the laboratory, in the form of *Archives*, will be edited by him.

Dr. Mott during the past year has especially devoted himself to the study of general paralysis, with the relation of syphilis to this disease, and he could not have attacked a subject of more interest and importance. Some of the results of his observations and his views of their pathological significance have already appeared in this Journal, and we shall await with interest their further development in the *Archives*.

Dr. Mott has already succeeded in one great object of such a laboratory, viz., the attracting to it of young and energetic workers; this we hope will be even more successful in the future, and lead ultimately to the establishment of a school of neuro-pathology worthy of the most wealthy and populous city in the world.

The London County Council and its Asylums Committee are to be congratulated on having made so important an advance, and on having placed their laboratory under such able management.

The Laboratory of the Scottish Asylums.

The conjoint Laboratory of the Scottish Asylums is now open and fully equipped for work. Already the pathologist, Dr. Ford Robertson, has made reports upon cases of special interest submitted to him for expert opinion, and on the 11th November the Scottish Division held their Autumn Meeting in the large room of the laboratory. Much care and thought have been bestowed upon the arrangements and fittings, with a view to thoroughly practical work, and all the necessary apparatus for histological research has been procured. The Scottish Division is to be congratulated upon having secured central and convenient premises in immediate contact with the Laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians at 12, Brisco Place, Edinburgh. This is beneficial to the College as well as to the asylums, since the close association of workers in science is both stimulating and helpful.

The duties of the pathologist are stated briefly, as follows:—To carry on original researches upon the pathology of insanity; to examine pathological material sent from the asylums and to furnish reports; to teach and give assistance to members of the medical staff of the

associated asylums in regard to research work upon the pathology of insanity; to make one visit annually to the associated asylums at the expense of the laboratory funds, and to make additional visits as required. This is a very generous scheme, and it is to be hoped that it will not unduly tax the energies of Dr. Ford Robertson and his assistant, Dr. David Orr.

It will be gathered from the foregoing that the aim of the Board has been to retain the services of a consulting specialist in pathology in the widest interests of psychiatry, and thereby to assist and develop similar work in the associated asylums. In short, the object of the scheme is to further our knowledge of the pathological processes of mental disease by instruction, advice, and encouragement. There is, unfortunately, an inevitable *aloofness* in asylum life. Medical observation and research is frequently pursued in uncongenial and remote surroundings; enthusiasm, too, often wanes in presence of dull routine and mechanical duties. Our Association has done much to bring its members together for the discussion of difficulties and the promulgation of ideas; and in a similar, helpful manner the Pathological Laboratory will keep alive that glow of intellectual vitality which medical education inspires, and will constitute a centre to irradiate the remoter hospitals for the insane in Scotland. It augurs well for the future of this scheme that fourteen institutions have already joined to set it upon a sound financial basis, and it is confidently expected that others yet undeclared will aid in developing the laboratory so that its operations may proceed with every encouragement. Under these favourable auspices, with the cordial support of the college, which was well represented upon the opening day, we may expect great results in the course of time. We venture to predict that the Scottish Laboratory will prove worthy of imitation by the other Divisions of the Association, and heartily wish success to the South-Western Division in their similar undertaking.

Irish Pauper Lunatics.

The absence of a law of settlement in Ireland is beginning to be acutely felt in connection with the chargeability of lunatics. The insane who are sent to public asylums in Ireland are not paupers in the same sense as in England, for they do not necessarily come first within the purview of the