

#### LUNACY AND IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

It is well known that a heavy burden has been imposed upon the United States of America by the immigration of persons already insane. A Bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives, after a full inquiry, to amend the immigration laws in this respect. Briefly, it proposes that aliens should be excluded if previously, within ten years, confined in any asylum for the insane, idiotic or epileptic, or if they have so suffered before landing in the United States, or if so affected within two years after admission, unless disorder is shown to have been due to causes arising after arrival. Certificates will be required from immigrants, and these must be granted by a local physician of experience in mental diseases whose reputation is vouched for by the local Consul, and must show whether the alien has been insane, etc. The Bill further provides for the return of aliens to their respective countries should they be undesirable immigrants for the reasons indicated. It was shown in the evidence that by the census of 1890 the foreign population of the State of New York constituted 25 per cent. of the whole, whereas the foreign population in the New York State Asylums was 50 per cent. of the whole. These and similar facts have long been recognised as vital to American interests, and it is by no means surprising that an effort is now being made to relieve the State of such an incubus.

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#### ASYLUM NEWS.

##### BURNTWOOD ASYLUM, STAFFORD.

We deeply regret to record that, by a fatal mistake, the lives of three patients have been lost at the Burntwood Asylum. By the report of the coroner's inquest it appears that on June 3rd draughts of chloral and potassium bromide had been prepared for six female patients, but Dr. Farquharson, having been called away whilst dispensing them, most unfortunately used a concentrated instead of a diluted solution contained in similar bottles, with the result that each patient got 240 grains of chloral. Three of the patients died. The jury returned a verdict of "death from misadventure," and recommended that bottles containing poison should be made more distinguishable from others in the surgery, the foreman expressing their deep sympathy with the relatives and with Dr. Spence and the staff of the Asylum in the sad occurrence. One of the relatives of the deceased, speaking for himself and others similarly bereaved, thereafter stated that he had perfect confidence in Dr. Spence, and testified to the kindness with which patients were treated by him and his staff. He also expressed his sympathy with Dr. Farquharson in the extremely painful position in which he had been placed. It is some consolation that the record of years of beneficent work outweighed the disaster of a moment in the minds of the public, as represented by the coroner's jury, and especially that the afflicted relatives of the deceased felt constrained in their sorrow to give expression to sentiments of esteem and sympathy. Such a result cannot but be helpful in encouraging us to renewed efforts to do our very best in the high calling which it is our privilege to follow.

##### A SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EPILEPTIC COLONY.

By Dr. G. J. COOPER, L.C.C.

This paper was read by the Secretary, in the author's absence, at the General Meeting in February last.

I should like to say at the commencement that in establishing an epileptic colony no thought was entertained that such a colony would be a curative remedy. But it was recognised that epileptics are a special class, and therefore might receive special treatment. Although they are liable to paroxysmal violence, and to become dangerous to others and to require restraint, they have longer or shorter periods of lucidity, and are therefore more likely to appreciate the more home-like treatment of a colony, and the freedom from association with the permanently