

explanation, I am able to state that I have seen at least four instances in which men with disease allied to Menière's disease, if not complete examples of the disease affecting the middle ear, have been guilty of sexual faults. The Court decided to remand the prisoner for three months, during which time provision for his safety in the way of a nurse or attendant was to be provided. This being done the conviction to be quashed.

ASYLUM NEWS.

*Killarney District Asylum.—Poisoning by Water-parsnip (Cenanthe crocata).—*Dr. Griffin reports that a male patient was seized by what appeared to have been an epileptic fit on 13th October. Another seizure was followed by vomiting, insensibility, and great prostration. Clonic fits supervened to the number of six, attaining their greatest intensity in the lower limbs, the upper limbs, and the face successively. He died before apomorphia had time to act, and the stomach-tube could not be used owing to the convulsions. Death was due to asphyxia, the heart having continued to beat for a few seconds after respiration ceased. Another patient was similarly affected, but an emetic relieved his stomach, and he was not insensible, although delirious. He had got a root from the patient who died, while working in a garden, and ate a little of it. The plant grows in great abundance in the south of Ireland, and is used as a poultice for boils, etc.

*Adelaide Asylums.—*We rejoice to learn that Dr. Clelland has been empowered by the Government to appoint a resident medical assistant at the Parkside Asylum. With Dr. Napier in residence at the Adelaide Asylum, the staff will now be stronger than it has been before. Our former reference to this matter will be found in the last number of the JOURNAL.

*Aberdeen New District Asylum.—*Aberdeen Parish Council, as the New District Lunacy Board, has agreed to purchase the properties of Rainniesshill and Kingseat, in the parish of Newmachar, as a site for the proposed new asylum—the former at a price somewhat under £30,000, the other about £7000.

RETREATS UNDER THE INEBRIATES ACTS.

The nineteenth report of the Inspector of Retreats under the Inebriates Acts of 1879 and 1888 has been issued as a Parliamentary paper. It states that the satisfactory sanitary condition of all the fourteen establishments had been maintained, and the health of the inmates had been very good on the whole. Only one death had occurred. The licences of all the retreats existing in 1897 were renewed by the justices, and two new establishments were opened at Wandsworth and Stretford for the reception of female patients. Compared with the year 1897, the number of admissions has slightly decreased. The Acts of 1879 and 1888, although defective on some points, had worked smoothly on the whole during the year. Sections 13 to 20 of the Inebriates Act of 1898, which amend the previous Acts in relation to retreats in several important particulars, had given universal satisfaction to the licensees of the existing retreats.

DIFFICULTIES UNDER THE INEBRIATES ACTS.

At Lancaster, the Chairman of Quarter Sessions, in speaking of a case of habitual drunkenness, said that, while the man should be sent to a retreat, he would have to be detained in gaol pending the instructions of the Secretary of State.

The Joint-Committee of the County and Non-county Boroughs have, however, prepared a report suggesting a Board to be formed, like the Asylums Board, under Act of Parliament. Pending this Act, the Committee suggest that the County