

The regulation of 1905 dealing with the Lunacy Law, which had many faults at first, has been modified this year by the Government in accordance with numerous criticisms which had been addressed to them.

The more important modifications relate to the chronic harmless insane and the feeble-minded. Under the old regulations these patients had to remain under care in the asylums; now, on the contrary, the provincial authorities have power to classify the patients and place them in special houses, either outside or within the asylum boundaries, thus giving the asylums their true functions as hospitals for mental diseases.

The new regulation encourages home treatment and also family care, which is extending more and more around the asylums to the advantage of the patients and of the provincial authorities. Discharges are also made more easy.

Unfortunately there has not been any modification of the judicial procedure relative to the admission of patients, a procedure which is intended to protect the liberty of the subject, but which, unhappily, prevents proper treatment from being given at a period when such treatment would be most likely to prove helpful to the patients.

Italian science has sustained a sad and irreparable loss in the death of Cesare Lombroso, whose name was so well known. His work dealt with many and varied aspects of insanity—criminality, genius, prostitution, political crimes, pellagra, cretinism, hypnotism. Lombroso's treatment of these vital questions was sometimes superficial, but ever genial. Evidence of the great esteem in which he was held was given four years ago by the cordial demonstration on the part of the most eminent anthropologists and criminologists of the entire world who assembled at Turin to celebrate his scientific jubilee.

SPAIN.

By Dr. W. COROLEU.

THE Minister of War has done for psychiatry what no Secretary for Public Instruction has ever done. In the Spanish universities psychiatry is not taught at all. Now it has become compulsory for army doctors to take up some special branch of medical work, and psychiatry is included. It is sad that such an important subject should be optional, but it is better than being ignored altogether. Dr. Fernandez Victorio, a well-known military alienist, who has distinguished himself by publishing a book on *Insanity in the Spanish Army*, has been appointed to give a psychiatric course at St. Bandilius Lunatic Asylum at Barcelona, where he is instructing some military students. As in former years a few students of forensic medicine, during their ordinary medical curriculum, have attended some lectures at the same asylum. This is all the psychiatric equipment they are provided with for their practice. No remedy for this reprehensible state of things is being suggested.

The Government has again interfered injudiciously with the asylums.

By an Order in Council the late Cabinet made the regulations for admission more stringent than ever. Moreover, there was a proposal which, if adopted, would empty our asylums of half their poor population. Our medical staff at the asylums are very poorly paid, and posts are often vacant for a long time. At last, after three attempts, a medical superintendent for the asylum at Gerona has been found in the person of Dr. Raiz Rodriguez, well known in Spain for his philosophical writings.

Dr. Dolsa's death has bereft Catalonia of the *doyen* of alienists. He was the founder of the Psychiatric Institute at Barcelona, one of the first private asylums in the city. His son, also an alienist of renown, died a year ago. Dr. Dolsa, jun., had written several important psychiatric works showing adherence to the old school. He had also intervened in famous medico-legal cases, such as Willie's.

We regret to record the death of Dr. Bertran Rubio, a famous neurological specialist, who contributed on psychiatric subjects to various medical reviews and magazines. Although not an alienist himself he was a profound literary scholar, and made just use of his classical and vivacious style of writing in trying to dissipate some of the errors and prejudices of the public as regards insanity.

As a proof of the stagnation that reigns in Spain in all psychiatric matters, we may point out that at the last International Congress of Medicine at Budapest only one Spanish physician was present in the section of psychiatry.

Publications have been few. The *Spanish Phrenopathic Review* has entered its eighth year. It has no companion in the Spanish medical press. Its contents are not, however, all Spanish. It has often articles by South Americans. Dr. Salceran's *Archives of Neurological and Phreniatric Therapeutics* is also in its eighth year. No new books on psychiatry have been published or translated. At the Medical Congress of St. James of Galice modern psychiatry was discussed but no progress made. The only satisfactory note in the deplorable state of mental science in Spain is in the good and reliable lunacy statistics published in the *Phrenopathic Review*. As this is compulsory work in the provincial asylums all credit is not due to them; however, the care taken is beyond praise. Private asylums do not publish their statistics, as in Spain great secrecy is observed regarding one's more personal affairs.

Lombroso was the subject of a lecture by the Professor of Forensic Medicine in Barcelona. A course of lectures, also in Barcelona, on anthropology and criminology, by Dr. Tambard, was the occasion of political turmoil. Some people were at pains to find in them heretical and anarchistic ideas.