

established for the observation and treatment of prisoners both before and after sentence.

Between 1921 and 1926 no fewer than 1,449 cases were admitted to these wards, the number showing an increase each year. Of these 30% were feeble-minded and 20% either epileptics or hystero-epileptic.

He strongly urges the extension of this policy on humanitarian grounds.

R. S. GIBSON.

7. Mental Hospital Reports.

BRITISH ISLES.

Down County Mental Hospital.—The number of patients at the end of the year, 1926, under review, shows at 743, an increase of 16—14 females and 2 males—as compared with the preceding year.

The admissions numbered 67 men and 72 women—an increase of 29.

Of the total number, 71, who were discharged, 58 had recovered, 12 were relieved and 1 was removed in an unimproved state.

The recovery-rate, as estimated on the admissions, comes to 47·8% for men, 36·1% for women, or a total of 41·7% as compared with 43·6%, 63·3% and 53·6% respectively, being the figures for the previous year.

The Medical Superintendent ascribes the reduction of the recovery-rate to the larger number of women admitted suffering from chronic mental disease.

The deaths were 52 in number, which figure gives a percentage of 7·1, estimated upon the daily average number resident. This is an increase of 2%.

The erection of new bedroom accommodation for part of the nursing staff will release for the use of the patients portions of the hospital which have been temporarily used by nurses, and will obviate any prospects of congestion through the continued increase in the number of patients.

The Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, accompanied by the Minister for Home Affairs, visited the hospital in February, 1927, and recorded his appreciation of the Committee's efforts towards the betterment of the insane. Medical and moral treatment has been continued with success as hitherto.

Turning to the financial side of the Report one finds the total average cost, including the repayment of loans, to be £55 5s. 5d. The net average cost came to £40 17s. 1d., a reduction of £3 15s. 2d. This was due almost entirely to the increased receipts from paying patients. The farm showed a profit of £1,211 18s. 5d., which must be considered satisfactory in view of the general state of agriculture. The area of land under cultivation and in grass was 176 acres.

Inverness District Asylum.—The report is for the year ending May 15, 1927, and on that day there were 723 patients on the register of the hospital as compared with 710 at the corresponding

date in the previous year; 148 cases were admitted during the year, and the total number under treatment was 865 (M., 439; F., 426). Of the types of mental disorder amongst the admissions melancholia and mania show the largest figures, and closely following these, various forms of dementia; only one case of general paralysis was admitted.

Of the 61 cases returned under the heading of melancholia, 13 were cases of dementia præcox, and of the 38 cases of mania, 9 were cases of the same disease.

"It has been estimated that about one-eighth of all admissions to British Mental Hospitals are cases of dementia præcox, and from the figures for recent years in this asylum it is apparent that, among the male patients, the proportion is not less.

"The disease is not one causing early death. The patients lead protected lives, and live long, as a rule, and they tend to accumulate, thus forming one of the chief reasons for the periodical necessity of enlarging mental hospitals or building new ones. If study of the causes and treatment of this malady could bring about its prevention or cure, the practical benefit to society would be direct and valuable."

As regards ætiology, hereditary predisposition was found in nearly 50% of the cases, and in 53 of the 148 admissions there had been at least one previous attack. Excess in alcohol was an assigned cause in only 4 cases. The recovery-rate for the year was 26% and the death-rate 9.5%.

Dr. Mackenzie concludes his report with an interesting analysis of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Lunacy:

"They foreshadow many improvements and developments that are bound to come, more promptly perhaps in the more central and wealthier parts of the country than in our more northern and impoverished areas, but desirable everywhere, if those unhappy members of the public who have the misfortune to be sufferers from mental disease and infirmity are to benefit by the advance of human knowledge and skill in combination with that spirit of brotherhood and of compassion for the sick and helpless which, though it may not be computed in pounds, shillings and pence, is, nevertheless an essential part of the treasure and heritage of altruistic feeling without which no society, certainly no Christian society, could continue and progress."

A considerable number of nurses, male and female, during the year passed either the examinations of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, or the examinations of the General Nursing Council for Scotland. Of 182 who became qualified between the years 1896 and 1927, 85% of the female and 58% of male nurses left the service.

Kesteven Mental Hospital.—The report is for the year 1926, and shows that at the beginning of the year the patients numbered 477 and at the end of the year 484. The admissions were 70 (M., 34; F., 36), a decrease of 17 men and 3 women compared with the previous year. On admission the prognosis was good in 25 cases, doubtful in 14 and in the remaining 31 bad. The recovery-rate for the year was 39.4%, and in the analysis of the recovered cases it is seen that most of the recoveries occurred in cases of simple mania and melancholia, but one is recorded in a case of primary dementia and two of systematized delusional insanity. The death-rate for the year was 5.9%

BURMAH.

The report is for the year 1926, and deals with the working of (1) the mental hospital of St. John's Road, Rangoon, (2) the new mental hospital at Tadagale, Rangoon, and (3) the temporary mental hospital at Minbu. These are the hospitals for mental disease that serve a country with an area roughly about four times the size of England and Wales, and a population, mainly agricultural, of approximately 13,000,000. The total accommodation at the three hospitals was 930—that for males being 658 and females 272. The average population during the year at Rangoon and Minbu was 846 males and 135 females.

During the year there were 234 admissions to the Rangoon Mental Hospital (to which most of the new cases go), and the largest number of these were of the coolie and cultivator class. The recovery-rate for the year was 12·4%, calculated on the admissions.

Of the etiological factors amongst the admissions, insane heredity was only established in a comparatively few cases; in a considerable proportion of cases toxic agents were considered to be either a predisposing or exciting cause, the chief being alcohol and *cannabis indica*, with opium and cocaine taking a secondary place. Syphilis and tuberculosis were considered ætiological factors of importance in many cases.

One case of cholera was correctly diagnosed on admission, and the infection did not spread, all the patients in the hospital having been inoculated with anti-cholera vaccine shortly before.

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

The Federated Malay States proper, namely, Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang, occupy an area of about 27,000 square miles, or rather less than half the size of England and Wales, and have a mixed population of Eurasians, Europeans and Americans, Indians, Chinese and Malays (in the proportions respectively of 1, 2, 100, 150, 160). It is from this population that the Central Mental Hospital, Tanjong Rambutan, mainly receives its patients, though it also receives from the Crown Colony of Singapore and the Protected States of Kedah and Kelantan. The total number of patients remaining in the hospital on December 31, 1926, was 2,021 (M., 1,550; F., 471); the percentage of recoveries for the year was 32·1 and that of deaths 6·6. The total number of States patients admitted during the year was 644 (M., 489; F., 155), the largest number ever admitted; Dr. Samuels attributes this partly to increase of the general population, and partly to the more enlightened knowledge of the people.

Primary dementia easily heads the list of forms of mental disease on admission, and this chiefly amongst the Chinese section of the population:

“ Seeing that the classification of mental disease is not yet all that one would like to see it, we cannot place too much reliance on the primary dementia figure, as the personal equation is, as things are at present, very prone to have an undue