

modation seemed to be necessary. It was pointed out to the District Board by the Commissioners that the accumulation was due more to a slowness in removing patients who had ceased to require asylum treatment than to an increase in the number annually sent to the asylum. Careful inquiry was made into the condition of every patient in the asylum with a view to the removal of all who might be suitably provided for otherwise. As the result of this inquiry a considerable number was discharged. Some recovered and became self-supporting after their liberation, and others were removed from the poor roll by their relatives; the ultimate result being that the number of pauper lunatics provided for in private dwellings in the district was only increased by 17. Thus, as the Commissioners observe, such removal is shown to be useful, not merely in avoiding the unnecessary enlargement of asylum buildings, but also in many instances in relieving the ratepayers altogether of the burden of maintaining the patients; and in some cases it is useful in effecting the recovery of the patients (condensed from Report, p. 35).

Possibly if in every County Asylum in England a similarly vigorous and systematic attempt were made, the erection of new buildings would be delayed for many years. We have never seen an explanation of the exceptional success of the Sussex Asylum Committee in this direction.

The general condition of the insane in private dwellings, under the supervision of the Board, is reported as satisfactory, and the system of providing for harmless and incurable lunatics in this manner is stated to be more and more a feature of the Scottish Lunacy Administration, and beneficial alike to the patients and to the ratepayers.

In conclusion we give the table (p. 566) showing the number and distribution of lunatics in Scotland on Jan. 1, 1888.

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*The Thirty-seventh Report of the Inspectors on the District Criminal and Private Asylums in Ireland.* Dublin, 1888.

On January 1st, 1887, the total number of persons registered as of unsound mind in Ireland amounted to 14,702, while at the end of the year an increase of 561 was found to have taken place, raising the return to 15,263, which is thus accounted for: In public asylums there were 10,077 at the beginning of the year, and 10,499, or 422 more, on the 31st December last; in poor-houses the numbers increased from 3,841 to 3,961; in private asylums 602 patients were

returned in the beginning of the year, and 625 at the end. On the other hand, a diminution had taken place at the criminal asylum from 172 to 169, and the Government patients at Palmerstown had decreased by one.

The proportion of insane persons to the general population of 2·80 per thousand might be taken as identical in England and Ireland at the beginning of the present decade, but since then the tide of emigration from Ireland has swept away this analogy, for the mentally as well as physically infirm were left behind. Hence an apparent, if not a real, increase of lunacy has arisen. In recent years, also, many persons who had originally emigrated from Ireland, and had spent a portion of their lives in America, on becoming insane have been sent back to their native country, as shown last year, when five lunatics arrived at Queenstown from America. We would suggest that a statistical table corresponding to Table II. of the English Commissioners' Report would be most interesting, giving the ratio of the insane to the general population of Ireland for the last twenty years.

The admissions to Irish district asylums numbered 2,863—1,558 males and 1,305 females—making a total under treatment in these institutions of 12,940.

Of the admissions 640 were relapsed cases.

The numbers received under the different forms of admission to public asylums were:—(1st) 1,891 under the 30th and 31st Vic., c. 118; (2nd) 76 by order of the Lord Lieutenant; (3rd) 842 under the ordinary application form; (4th) on the authority of the inspectors, 28, of whom 15 were soldiers who became insane when on active service.

The diminished population of some counties, and the decrease of the number of resident gentry are said to have caused an increase of the number admitted as dangerous lunatics, and a decrease of the application to the local boards. This would, however, be more easily explained by the fact that the dispensary medical officer is paid two guineas for a certificate under the Dangerous Lunatic Act, but is obliged to sign the application paper without fee or reward. Under the Dangerous Lunatic Act the insane person is at once transferred to the asylum free of charge by the police, while under the old form of application no provision exists for the safe removal of the lunatic, as it is only a request to have the insane person admitted, which may or may not be acted on, according to the pleasure of the

asylum authorities. The Dangerous Lunatic Act for Ireland is most objectionable, in that it converts the lunatic into a criminal, but until an order framed in a spirit more in accordance with the present ideas of civilization is introduced it seems useless to object to it, as at present it is the only summary power by which the insane poor in Ireland are able to obtain immediate treatment and safe keeping.

Of the total number under treatment in public asylums last year, 1,123 were discharged recovered, 375 relieved, and 84 not improved. The mortality amounted to 857, while only two escapes are recorded.

The recoveries, if contrasted with admissions alone, would appear to the Inspectors to present a too flattering result of the effects of treatment, being close on 40 per cent. They would wish to be more precise, and are of opinion that the percentage should be taken on the average under treatment. On looking at the statistics, no table can be found giving the percentage of recoveries on the admissions for 1887 compared with previous years, as found in the Commissioners' reports for England and Scotland.

Eighty-four cases were removed from public asylums not improved; these were generally taken away by their friends, so that they might die at home. It would therefore appear evident that no attempt has as yet been made to introduce the boarding-out system in Ireland.

The mortality amounted to about 7 per cent. on the total treated, a percentage which is said not to have varied during the past three years. But, again, on turning to the statistics no comparative statement of the percentage of deaths can be found. We would suggest to the Inspectors that, although their statements must be received with the most profound credence, it is usual in official and scientific reports to accompany them with comparative statistics bearing out their truth. Of the 857 deaths, 326 died of pulmonary disease, 234 of cerebral, 94 of abdominal affections, and 148 of old age. "The difference was owing to other ordinary maladies, but principally of a febrile character."

Two patients only are said to have committed suicide in a daily average number of 10,263; the number occurring in England during the same time amounted to 24, and in Scotland to seven.

The expenditure on the erection and enlargement of Irish public asylums is placed by Act of Parliament under the control of the three Commissioners of Public Works and the

two Inspectors of Irish Asylums, the former being joint trustees to the property of these institutions. This branch of the department has expended since 1830 close on one million and a half.

The total cost of maintenance of the insane in the twenty-two Irish public asylums during the twelve months amounted to £217,217 4s. 4d., and the average capitulation cost of inmates in them was £21 3s. 6d., of which £10 8s. was obtained from the rate in aid, leaving £10 15s. 6d. to devolve on the country at large as the total cost of their pauper patients, being two shillings under the cost of the year 1886. The expenditure, however, differs much in the various asylums, owing to repairs, refurnishing, machinery, a rise in contract prices, etc. Apart from these causes, the Inspectors point out what different ideas the various Boards of Governors have of the object of the rate in aid. Some have a more liberal appreciation of its use, and for this reason greater comforts are provided for the inmates through its administration. The Inspectors are of opinion that the rate in aid should be not the principal support of public asylums, but merely an alleviation of local taxation. The Treasury Grant is stated to have come into full operation in 1878. Previous to that year the cost of the insane, at that time numbering 7,741, fell altogether on the local taxpayer, and the amount raised by taxation for asylum maintenance amounted to £190,000. In 1887 an increase of 2,758 patients had taken place, who were much better looked after, while the cost of their maintenance had decreased by 60 per cent. per head. Had the 12,940 asylum inmates last year been so many paupers in a workhouse, as otherwise they might have been, they would not have cost on an average thirty-two shillings less. In connection with this, the Inspectors suggest to the consideration of His Excellency a scheme (which they forgot to state was not original with them), viz., that the Treasury Grant should be appropriated to the payment of salaries, wages, and superannuations. At present the only appointment which the Executive retain is that of Medical Superintendent to each of the twenty-two public asylums. The Inspectors are disposed to think that, besides resident physicians, other asylum officials should be directly appointed by the Executive, so as to afford a more efficient and uniform selection, and that all should be paid out of the Treasury Grant, and be incorporated as members of the Civil Service.

In other countries, taking America for example, so progressive in its apprehension as to lunatic requirements, its public institutions for the insane in all its divisions and dependencies are designated by their practical and true name, "State asylums," and which, for social reasons in regard to communities at large and for individuals on personal grounds, are placed under a special department and controlled by each separate Legislature.

The meaning of the latter part of this paragraph is not easily understood, nor does America appear to be a good example to take of the utility of State interference in the management of asylums, as we have always understood that the want of a central authority and uniform system of management was considered by some to be a defect in these most excellent institutions.

The supply of provisions during the year was considered so satisfactory and the contracts were so much in the favour of the local boards of public asylums that the contractors, like the Israelites of old, prayed to the Inspectors to be relieved of their burdens.

Cereal food, such as bread and oatmeal, the latter much used, has been uniformly of good quality, as also milk, an article of very large consumption.

Groceries were obtained at reasonable terms and of fair quality.

With reference to animal food prices varied. In some places it cost only 4d. to 4½d., and in others from 5d. to 6½d. per lb. With regard to textile fabrics—bedding, linen, and such like—they are also purchased by contract.—Home-manufactured frieze, a lasting and most suitable material for men's wearing apparel, is almost solely obtained. Coals, relatively to all other domestic articles largely consumed, and in the absence of Irish coal mines comparatively with what obtains in England, is a heavy item of expense in our district asylums.

Nothing could be more gratifying than the description of the fortunate lot of the insane in Irish asylums—the oatmeal and milk so much used! groceries so good and so cheap! meat at 4d. per lb.! Above all the home-manufactured frieze, which, it is to be hoped, after so high a recommendation, will shortly come into universal demand, and which ought to make up for the deficiency in the supply of coal—the only thing needed.

The accommodation provided is not, however, spoken of in the same laudatory terms. The dormitories, although airy and maintained with cleanliness, are so much overcrowded

that the cubic area for each patient is as much as twenty per cent. below the space thought necessary under the laws of modern sanitation, and the day-room accommodation is even worse, from the fact that in many cases, from the necessity of providing space, these rooms have been converted into dormitories. From the overcrowding of the rooms classification becomes impossible, and therefore the inspectors, even at the risk of being considered extravagant, are constantly endeavouring to meet these obvious requirements for more space. In domestic arrangements, particularly in the old asylums, there is much to be remedied, the kitchens, laundries, and stores being quite inadequate for the increase in the number of the inmates. Even in the newer asylums much inconvenience is experienced from the sudden increase of the number of admissions.

The Inspectors again speak in the same laudatory terms as they have done in preceding reports, not only from their own observations, but from the reports of the medical superintendents, of the manner in which the subordinate staffs as a general rule perform their duties, "not only with zeal and assiduity, but with a forbearance and kindness of demeanour towards the insane, many of whom, it must be added, are frequently irritable and most difficult to manage."

It may be that Irish attendants and nurses are of a higher mental and moral status than those met with in other countries, but we would suggest for the consideration of the Inspectors that as the medical superintendents have no voice in the appointment or dismissal of their staff they naturally take much less interest in their conduct than would be the case were the attendants alone responsible to them.

Occupation is stated to be far from neglected in district asylums, "looking at the peculiar and uncertain character of the insane." It is admitted, however, that the amount of land attached to these institutions is not sufficient, and it would seem that much remains to be done with a view of providing increased means of employment.

In order to introduce a spirit of emulation in the different asylums we would suggest as an addition to Table No. 30 a comparative statement of the number of patients employed in each asylum, in addition to the amount of work done. Amusements are now liberally provided, and advocated by the local board as not alone curative agents, but with a view to alleviate the unhappiness of those who feel the depriva-

tion of their liberty. In some asylums bands are provided, music encouraged, and country excursions and dances take place every week.

Boards of Governors of Irish public asylums have been appointed for the last sixty years by successive Lord Lieutenants. The attendance of some members of these bodies was not considered sufficiently regular, so a revision took place, and fresh appointments were made "from the gentry and educated body of society," an arrangement which, in the opinion of the Inspectors, "leaves nothing to be desired as ensuring the same considerate, tranquil, and successful system of management that has been hitherto uniformly sustained without offence to any class of the population, in a spirit of benevolence towards the insane poor and with a due regard to economy."

It is to be presumed from these remarks that the Inspectors are a conservative body, loving the old *régime*, and in no way anxious for the introduction of new or democratic doctrines.

The ministration of religion to the insane by the chaplains of different sects is spoken of as most beneficial.

The three principal religious denominations—Catholics, Protestants, and Presbyterians—have in many asylums separate places of worship, and at the same time a cordial and unbiassed relationship, in which the distinctive forms of religion are unknown, animates the three alike.

The meaning of this is not quite clear. If the distinctive forms of religion are unknown, why is it necessary to have three separate places of worship and the ministration of three separate chaplains? If all feelings of religious bigotry have been removed in the asylums of Ireland we can only say that the inmates of these institutions must possess a larger share of common sense than falls to the lot of the general population of that country.

The twenty-two district asylums are next taken in alphabetical sequence, and a short account of each is given. These take the form of brief historical sketches, in which information is given of the population of the district in which the asylum is situated, with the rateable valuation, the number of inmates in the asylum, the expenditure, the cost per head per patient, and the amount payable for their support from local taxation.

The Dundrum Criminal Asylum is next reported on. At the

end of 1886 the number of inmates amounted to 172, whilst at the end of the year only 169 were found resident. A large number of the inmates having been transmitted to the asylums of their district, the previously overcrowded condition of the wards has been somewhat lessened. The Inspectors, however, recommend an increase of accommodation by the construction of an annexe, containing a dormitory for sixteen and a day-room of proportionate dimensions.

The condition and general management of the asylum meets with the highest praise. The patients are carefully and kindly treated, the attendants are attentive to their duty, the dietary good and ample, the farm well cultivated, and the sanitary condition of the institution particularly favourable. The neighbouring residents, however, so strongly complain of the overflow sewerage that a new system is about to be adopted.

The number of the insane in Irish workhouses amounted, on December 31st, 1887, to 3,961, of whom 1,565 were males and 2,396 females, being an excess of 120 on the preceding year.

It would be erroneous, however, to regard the preceding total as being composed of lunatics in the ordinary acceptation of the term, the larger proportion of them belonging rather to the epileptic and idiotic classes, a considerable portion of whom were imbecile from birth, or, being in early life affected by some type of insanity, in the progress of time became idiotic.

The visitation of workhouses is included amongst the official duties of the Irish Inspectors, but as these institutions number 162 they are unable to visit them within any specific time. Still they are enabled to state that from year to year an amelioration takes place in the condition of the insane inmates; they are not only objects of kindly consideration, have a better dietary, and in some cases, where numerous, they have not only paid attendants, but if able to work are industriously occupied.

Under the 38th and 39th Vict., cap. 67, three lunatics have been removed from the Derry asylum and placed in the Limavady workhouse. Eighteen are in the Ennis poorhouse, belonging to the asylum of that county, and 87 at the Ballymena Union from the asylum at Belfast, in consequence of the want of space for the insane in these district asylums. Of the number of idiots and epileptics wandering at large, to whom reference was made in a former report, the Inspectors

are not as yet in a position to give any statistical information.

The number of inmates in the twenty-three private asylums had increased by 23 during the year, there being 602 under treatment at the close of 1886, and 625 at the close of 1887.

These institutions consist of four, supported in part by voluntary contributions, and nineteen which come under the denomination of "licensed houses." The accommodation provided for the insane of the middle classes is stated to be insufficient, as they are often unable to gain admission to district asylums, already overcrowded by the insane poor, and are unable to pay for their maintenance in a private institution, and thus lose the benefit of treatment in the early stage of their malady. It must, therefore, be understood that the four lunatic hospitals referred to, as supported partly by voluntary contributions, are not sufficient to supply the demands of the middle classes in Ireland.

The Inspectors, in concluding their report, call attention to the difference which exists in public and private institutions for the insane with reference to inebriety as a cause of insanity.

Comparatively very few, save urgent cases of delirium tremens, are sent to district asylums from an uncontrollable indulgence in fermented or "spirituous liquors," its results, as a rule, being subject to magisterial inquiry and punishment. In the better classes such dissipation leads to a private licensed asylum as causing a total abandonment of family and social duties, accompanied too often with a senseless depravity, especially and still more unfortunately among females. It is difficult to act in such contingencies—between confinement on the one part, and on the other a freedom, to be probably followed by similar excesses.

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*Francis Bacon, his Life and Philosophy.* By JOHN NICHOL, M.A., Balliol, Oxon, LL.D., Professor of English Literature in the University of Glasgow. William Blackwood and Sons, 1888. ("Philosophical Classics for English Readers." Edited by William Knight, LL.D.)

The life of this ever-memorable man must always possess an interest for the psychologist. The strange contradictions in one character, the marvellous range of mental vision, the versatility which touched upon so vast a number of subjects,