1927.]	MENTAL	HOSPIT	AL	REPO	PRTS.				339
Total number	admitted during	the 12 yes	ars						376
	y was ascribed to								100
,, ,,	,,,	,,	mixe	d with	h othe	r dru	gs.		276
Received from	the four large tow	ns, Cairo,	Alex	andria	, Port	Said	and S	uez	192
Average age o	of those admitted .				٠.			32 3	ears
" Occupations	s of those admitte	ed: Sales	men	and a	rtizan	s in	practi	ically	equal
	nish 50% of the to						•	•	•

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

Central Mental Hospital, Tanjong Rambutan.—In the fifteenth annual report of this hospital (for the year 1925) it is shown that it had on its register at the end of the year a total of 1,895 patients in the proportion of more than 3 males to 1 female, the increase for the year being 150, though the increase of strictly Federated Malay States patients was rather less than that of previous years. The districts giving the largest number of patients during the year were the urban areas of Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Taiping and Seramban.

As in previous years, the form of mental disorder most prominent amongst the admissions was primary dementia, which accounted for more than a quarter of the total; 68 cases of general paralysis were admitted, but it is to be hoped that this figure will, in process of time, tend to diminish as a result of the active scheme (both educational and treatment) for combating venereal disease now adopted by the Government. In a report by Dr. Arthur Smith (the Government specialist) on this subject it is noted that syphilis is particularly rife amongst the Chinese, and it is amongst the Chinese also that alcohol appears to be an increasing cause of mental disease:

"I may be accused of repeating myself year after year in my report, but I cannot help again pointing to the increase in alcohol as a cause of mental disease, and stressing the fact that alcohol is taking the place of opium with the Chinese, and very much to their detriment. I must point out also that we shall have to guard against the crimes attributable to alcohol amongst the Chinese as a new danger to the community.

"A remarkable fact in alcohol, as a cause, in this year's table is that it appears as a contributory cause in almost half the cases attributable to alcohol, whereas last year it appeared almost invariably as a primary cause.

"Even so, syphilis and alcohol are the most potent causes, as they appear more often than not as primary causes, whereas 'gastro-intestinal system' is almost invariably shown as a contributory cause, as is 'cardio-vascular degeneration,' which in its turn is as often as not due to syphilis or alcohol.

"Before I leave the question of alcohol, I should like to point out that alcohol appeared as a cause in 43 Chinese cases and only 20 Tamil cases."

In connection with the subject of the opium habit, it is interesting to note that the Government has established wards for the purpose of attempting its cure, and the Principal Medical Officer (Dr. Dowden) reports on this experiment as follows:

"This costly experiment cannot be regarded as an unqualified success. Government paid all expenses and supplied special cooks and diets. No reliable figures giving statistics of cures have ever been produced, for patients cannot be traced after discharge—a fact admitted by everyone.

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"Practically no patients seem to have regarded opium as a vice, but rather as

an expensive habit on which they spent money they would prefer to save.

"During the slump years the wards were overcrowded by persons who, amongst other reasons, saw a chance of getting three weeks' living free; with the return of prosperity the numbers very rapidly reduced.

The test which is most reliable should be the numbers passing through the

wards and the effect on the sale of opium.

"In all 6,678 persons sought a cure since the wards opened.

Referring to the somewhat large number of "escapes" (83), Dr. Samuel maintains his sound view that "escapes" are better than "prisons," and in this connection complains quite justly of the large number of criminal lunatics for which he is compelled to accept responsibility.

Part IV.—Notes and News.

THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE usual QUARTERLY MEETING of the Association was held on Wednesday, February 16, 1927, at the Cheshire County Mental Hospital, Macclesfield. The chair was occupied by the President, Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.E.

The Parliamentary and Education Committees met on the previous day at the same hospital and enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. H. Dove Cormac, the Medical Superintendent, with whom they partook of lunch and tea.

MINUTES.

The President said the minutes of the previous meeting had already appeared in the Journal, and unless members desired it they need not be read.

The minutes were taken as read and were approved and signed by the President.

OBITUARY.

The President regretted to announce the death of a number of members. Knowledge of the passing of some of them only came to hand recently, though the deaths took place some time ago; nevertheless he thought it right that they should all be mentioned, and the opportunity given to members to express their regrets. A notice had been inserted in the Journal asking that deaths of members should be notified to the Association as soon thereafter as possible.

The late Dr. Henry Morton Baker.

In May, 1925, there died Dr. Henry Morton Baker, who had been an ordinary member of the Association since 1878. Early in his career he was on the medical staff of Wakefield Mental Hospital, and afterwards served as Assistant Medical Officer at the Leicester City Mental Hospital for 32 years. He was a man of charming personality, bore a high character, and was greatly respected for his kindly and conscientious dealings with both patients and staff. He retired on a well-earned pension in 1910.

The late Dr. Josiah Oake Adams.

The Association lost its doyen in the death of Dr. Josiah Oake Adams, who had been an ordinary member since 1868. Of the '60 members there were now left only two, Dr. Outterson Wood and Dr. David Nicholson, and it was a pleasure to know that both those distinguished members were still spared to them. Dr. Adams died on June 15, 1925, in his 83rd year. He was a Bart.'s man, and served,