

gained by representations of this kind, nor by reckless statements as to increase in the rates. But asylums in Ireland are very unpopular institutions, and any stone will do to throw at a dog. It is curious, by the way, to observe that the notion of boarding out the insane never seems to occur to the reformers and economists in Ireland. Is this due to the ancient dread of lunacy still existing there, or to mere ignorance of such a method, or to "a high sense of duty" lest the insane might be neglected, or have "contracts" anything to do with it? We are left in a distressing state of uncertainty on these and many other interesting points.

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*Clinical Cases.*

The cases of clinical interest in our asylums must be very numerous, and there can be no doubt that much valuable information is buried in asylum case-books with little hope of ever reaching the notice either of the specialty or the profession.

Striking pathological and symptomatological variations are the most attractive for reporting, but new departures in general treatment and special drug therapeutics are also of great importance. The negative results of the latter are even of more value than the positive. If a drug produces favourable effects these are almost certain to be published at once, whilst the failures only reach publicity much later. Hence arise misleading first impressions of the nature of a drug, which are long in being corrected. In this direction, therefore, there is a valuable opening for clinical effort.

The number of clinical cases recorded in this JOURNAL can be but a fractional proportion of what might be with advantage supplied from the vast material of our asylums. Medical superintendents, and especially the secretaries of divisions, would be doing good work in urging the junior members of the Association to undertake clinical reporting. Careful work of this kind is the very best foundation of medical character, and this has never been more thoroughly demonstrated than in the career of that eminent clinician, Dr. Hughlings Jackson.

The value of this JOURNAL would certainly be greatly increased by a very considerable extension of the number of carefully reported clinical cases, while many junior physicians

in making such contributions would be laying the foundations of future literary and scientific reputation

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*Report of the Tuberculosis Committee.*

The Derby meeting of the Association did not pass without reference to the unfortunate report of the Tuberculosis Committee. The President explained that the whole matter had been considered by the Council, that they had obtained the opinion of an expert of the highest eminence, and that it was desirable to proceed further in order to have the statistics corrected and published in this JOURNAL. As we have previously indicated, the errors in these statistics do not vitiate the important conclusions set forth by the Committee. Of that the Council has been definitely assured; and, as Dr. Yellowlees remarked, it is the duty of the Council to protect the honour and dignity of the Association. The whole of the materials accumulated and dealt with by the Tuberculosis Committee in the production of their Report will be submitted to a searching expert inquiry, and the results will be made known. Nothing less could be regarded as satisfactory in the circumstances; the members of the Committee are just as desirous of having mistakes corrected as the Council or the Association at large. The Chairman of the Committee has taken a course which is absolutely unassailable; having consulted with the members of his Committee, he laid the matter before the Council and gave every possible assistance towards the amendment of the errors into which the Committee fell. We may therefore await with confidence the result of these deliberations.

The resolution proposed at the meeting, if successful, would have had the effect of a finding of no confidence in the Council, and it was consequently very properly, promptly, and decisively rejected.

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*The Colney Hatch Fire.*

The suffocation of fifty insane persons, as the result of a fire in an English asylum, constitutes a tragedy that might