

in this Act he is specially desirous of securing, viz. that which would legalise the placing of single patients for six months under the care of medical practitioners without certification, though with notification to the Commissioners. The clause is designed to meet those early cases of mental disturbance which may never develop, and avoid for them the stigma of the certificate.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

*Balneological Treatment of Nervous Diseases: Discussion at the British Balneological Society. (Brit. Med. Journ., Feb. 10th, 1900.)*

Dr. Risien Russell laid stress on the value of baths in certain troublesome symptoms of some chronic spinal cord affections. In acute nervous troubles he instanced peripheral neuritis as specially amenable. In neurasthenia he drew attention to the two forms of this disease, in the one of which stimulating baths, in the other indifferent baths were called for.

Dr. Karl Grube, of Neuemahr, was struck by the relatively small attention paid in England to the bath treatment of nervous affections, neuritis in particular being strikingly benefited by such. He urged the importance of avoiding extreme temperatures, indifferent baths—*i. e.* of a temperature of about blood-heat—being most beneficial. The nature of the chemical constituents of the bath waters was of very secondary importance.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

*The Treatment of Neurasthenia. (Glas. Med. Journ., Oct., 1899.) Somerville, W. F.*

The usual essentials of the treatment of the neurasthenic by isolation, rest in bed, massage, and careful dieting are insisted upon. Dr. Somerville judges it a mistake to over-feed the patients; but when he says that, "speaking generally, it is found that the patient can soon be induced to take six to eight good meals a day, together with three or four pints of milk," it will be admitted that the scale is liberal enough. Massage is begun first as effleurage, and then is made more forcible and the *séance* prolonged.

As a detail of some importance, it is advised that the patient should proceed to take a holiday in the country, at the end of the cure, before returning to the home circle.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

*Treatment of Epilepsy by Bromides and Hypochlorisation [Traitement de l'épilepsie par les bromures et l'hypochloruration]. (Rev. de Psychiat., Jan., 1900.) Toulouse, E.*

This represents essentially a new departure in therapeutics: it is based first upon the chemical relationship between bromides and chlorides, which is such that the former appear to be capable of replacing the latter to a certain extent in the tissues; and next it is based upon the well-known fact that the organism can adapt itself to a diet with a minimum or maximum of sodium chloride. The diet which demands much salt is the vegetable one, whilst an animal diet, and more particularly a milk diet, makes much less call for sodium