

Until other accommodation can be made for the tuberculous insane it would be a great advantage to these patients, and would for several months of the year relieve the non-tuberculous patients from the danger of infection to which they are now unavoidably exposed.

The treatment of the demented in this way during the summer months might also avoid and mitigate some of the special intestinal disorders to which they are prone.

The greatest advantage, however, would probably accrue in the treatment of convalescent cases.

(¹) *American Journal of Insanity.*

Reception-house and General Hospital.

A reception pavilion in connection with the General Hospital has been established at Albany (N.Y.), and appears to be doing very satisfactory work.

The Edinburgh Infirmary Reception Ward is not yet constructed, but the rumour has reached us that patients are being received in the existing wards.

The Sligo District Lunatic Asylum.

At the monthly meeting of the Committee of Management of this asylum, as reported in the *Sligo Independent* of February 21st, we find the opinion expressed by one of the members of that body that "the attendants were perfectly right to use a certain amount of violence in order to keep proper discipline amongst the inmates." This expression of opinion arose on a discussion on a sworn inquiry, held by a Lunacy Inspector, as to the alleged ill-treatment of an inmate by two attendants. The Inspector stated that the patients "gave evidence under evident fear of the consequences their action might entail." A letter was read from a number of attendants denying any terrorism, and this was apparently accepted as disproving the Inspector's statement. The Inspector having admitted that the two accused attendants could not, on the evidence obtained, be

convicted in a court of law, the Committee, after declining the invitation of their chairman to ask the opinion of the Medical Superintendent, exonerated the two attendants from all blame.

If the facts are correctly reported there can be little doubt that the maintenance of discipline in the Sligo Asylum is an impossible matter, and that sooner or later "regrettable incidents" will occur in that institution. Ill-treatment of inmates must inevitably occur in an institution in which the attendants are encouraged to use "a certain amount of violence," in which charges of terrorism by an independent official are held to be refuted by the simple denial of some of the accused parties, and attendants are entirely exonerated under conditions of the very gravest suspicion,—where, in fact, a majority of the governing body shows a marked bias in favour of the attendants, rather than a desire to protect the patients.

In 1901 an attendant of this asylum, who had assaulted a patient, was recommended for dismissal by the Lunacy Inspectors, but the Committee decided only to caution him. This man was, however, prosecuted before the magistrates for assault, and imprisoned for two months.

Irishmen are so universally recognised as siding with the weak and suffering that this perversion of the national characteristic must have an explanation, and this is to be found in "politics." In spite of St. Patrick the trail of the political serpent is over it all. Committees are only anxious to exercise to the full their unlimited power and patronage, and have not grasped the duties and responsibilities devolving upon the managers of asylums; nor do they appear to have fully realised the object with which those institutions have been founded.

The Spirit World.

The pages of a spiritualistic contemporary afford a great amount of seriously stated information in regard to existence in the spirit world, which is almost as interesting as that which we are accustomed to receive from our patients.