

with friends being extremely few, as none are sent for treatment to institutions beyond the limit of the colony, and as the census was taken with great accuracy, and great care taken in subsequent estimates of changes in the number of the population, the information on this head was easily collected, and is valuable as being more definite and exact than could be furnished by the majority of superintendents of British Asylums.

The following return shows the Proportion of Epileptics to the Asylum Population in New South Wales on December 31, 1873 :—

Hospital for the Insane, Gladsville ...	No. of Patients.			Epileptics.			Proportion of Population.		
	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Total.
Lunatic Asylum, Parramatta. Free	499	205	704	41	21	62	1 in 13'90	1 in 10'23	1 in 12'66
Convict*	29	7	36	0	0	0			
Criminal†	42	3	45	0	0	0			
Asylum for Imbeciles, &c., Newcastle	100	32	132	17	8	25	1 in 5'88	1 in 4	1 in 5'28
Licensed House for Lunatics, Cook's River	5	43	48	0	1	1		1 in 43	1 in 48
Totals	942	584	1526	80	43	123	1 in 11'77	1 in 13'90	1 in 12'51

The percentage, as will be seen, is—Male 8·49, female 7·19. Total 7·99. The very little difference in the proportion in the two sexes, and the total absence of Epilepsy among the patients in the Criminal Divisions of the Parramatta Asylum, are curious facts.

The total population of the colony on December 31st, 1873, was 307,329 males and 252,946 females, a total of 560,275, the proportion of insane persons being 1 to 367 of the population.

Chinese Lunatics.

The total number of Chinese patients in the Asylums of New South Wales on September, 30, 1874, was 47, and their proportion to the Chinese population of the colony, which has been estimated by the excellent returns made to the Registrar-General with great accuracy, was 1 in every 140.

This enormous proportion is no doubt due partly to the decrease in the Chinese population of the colony through return to China, which, in the decennial period 1861-71, was 44·41 per cent., and which has gone on steadily ever since ;

* Those classed as convicts were originally deported to this colony, became insane before the expiry of their sentences, and are still at the charge of the Imperial Treasury. They are mostly aged patients.

† The criminals are confined under the Criminal Lunacy Statutes in force in the colony, and include a certain number of Queen's pleasuremen.

partly to the accumulation of Chinese patients in the asylums, as they very rarely recover their reason sufficiently to allow unconditional discharge, have no friends to take charge of them whilst still insane, and appear to live to the average age; and partly to the fact that the present Chinese population consists largely of the unsuccessful and hopeless classes, the cream of the population having obtained money and returned to China, whence, since the cessation of alluvial gold-digging, there has been little migration into this colony.

Thirty-four Chinese patients have in six years come under my immediate care, and of these four only have been discharged, and two have returned after a short absence from Hospital. Of this number 13 were admitted for melancholia without marked delusions; 11 for delusional insanity, in which the type was melancholia in more than half the cases; and 10 for dementia. The causes of insanity in the cases in which information was obtained, were abuse of opium, loss of money, desertion of wife, starvation, and masturbation, the two former being the most frequent. Among the whole number of patients now under care one only is an epileptic, and the memories of officers who have been long connected with this institution fail to recall more than one other instance of epilepsy among this class. I have never seen nor heard of a general paralytic. The Chinese patients, as a rule, speak very imperfect English; communication with them is, therefore, difficult. The manners, customs, modes of thought and feeling of the Anglo-Saxon are altogether foreign to them, and the impression so often made on other patients by kind and timely persuasion or advice, and by association with those of sound mind, is altogether lost to them. These facts may in some degree account for the want of success in treatment.

Information on insanity as seen in China would be of the greatest interest to almost all alienist physicians in the Australian colonies, and, perhaps, to many others. Will some medical missionary or medical practitioner in China kindly furnish it?

Case of Acquired Idiocy, complicated with Unilateral Convulsions. By KINGROSE ATKINS, M.A., M.D., Assistant Medical Officer, District Lunatic Asylum, Cork.

As the subject of epileptic and allied convulsions is just now attracting a considerable share of attention, both from pathologists and clinical observers, I think the particulars of