

right, but in some few instances it is possible that he might over- or under-estimate the serious nature of the disorder.

The law, however, demands that any qualified practitioner may be called on to sign a certificate, however inexperienced, and no change can be expected unless some bishop or other bigwig is certified with undue facility, when it will be discovered that the discharge of this function demands special training and experience.

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*The Scottish Universities and Psychiatry.*

A well-informed and cogent article in the *Scotsman* for July 4th shows how defective the Scottish Universities are in regard to the teaching of Psychiatry, and pleads for a full consideration of the whole question. The writer, seizing an opportune moment, while Mr. Carnegie's munificence is the topic of the day, shows how much has been done in the Universities of Germany in providing clinics for study and treatment of the insane, and how little has been done in Edinburgh to bring the medical school into line with other countries which have long led the way. He shows the importance of the omission, and refers to the fact that there is even yet no clinic attached to the Royal Infirmary, as accessible to students as that infirmary, although the establishment of such an institution has been repeatedly urged during the last thirty years. Of course the wider questions of the advancement of science, and the improved treatment of nervous and mental patients, find able advocacy in the article referred to. Referring to what has been done at Würzburg, the best clinic in Germany, it is stated that it cost £14,000 for sixty beds, with laboratories, lecture-room, etc., complete; that the site was the gift of the Municipality; and that the Government, in the usual course of German educational policy, liberally contributed. It is also shown that the observation wards established in Glasgow have materially reduced the admissions into the asylum, and that the several public boards of Edinburgh ought to take special interest in such a scheme on the ground of economy alone. The writer indicates these boards, and gives reasons why they should combine to set up a clinic of Psychiatry in Edinburgh. He calls upon the Town Council, the Medical School, the Edinburgh District Lunacy Board, the Royal Infirmary, and

the Judiciary to take part in this scheme, which would surely rank as a philanthropic and educative achievement in the widest sense; and his final suggestion is that some of our wealthy men should follow the patriotic example of Mr. Carnegie.

Unfortunately we often find that the best advice is practically wasted unless it is enforced by action. Might it not be possible for our Scottish colleagues to convene a meeting in Edinburgh to make these suggestions a practical policy? They have established a joint pathological laboratory, which is already being developed in the sphere of bacteriology, in spite of the difficulties which beset its inception; and we look to them to inaugurate the new century with a bold and comprehensive scheme, which will at least bring psychiatry in Scotland to a level with psychiatry in Germany.

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*Centenary of Wonford House Hospital for the Insane.*

As told by the Committee in their report for 1900, the following resolution was passed at a meeting of Devonshire notables, held at the Castle Exeter on July 29th, 1795:

“That it is the sense of this meeting that a General Hospital for the Reception of Insane Persons should be established in or near the City of Exeter.”

At that meeting £2175 were subscribed. When this nucleus became sufficiently enlarged Bowhill House was bought, and formally opened for the reception of patients on July 1st, 1801. Thus has the hospital, which has since migrated to Wonford, in this year attained its centenary. As the Committee point out, the heavy work of starting the institution was carried through when England was experiencing the strain and stress of a great war. Beyond all questions of energy and unselfish contribution of time and money, for which the promoters can justly be lauded, there must arise in our minds unstinted admiration for the trustful bravery with which they broke away from what was then considered to be the normal method of treating insanity. Now-a-days popular indignation would sweep away such abuses as were then current without the help of any reformer. But a century ago it was very different. With one or two exceptions no one then knew anything of the brighter treatment. Private asylums get the