

to the present standard of the metropolitan district. We have much pleasure in referring our readers to Dr. Shuttleworth's admirable address, which can be procured from Messrs. King and Son, Great Smith Street, Westminster. As we have repeatedly shown in these columns, there is urgent need to guide this matter to a practical issue, by separating the educable from the non-educable children, and by erecting custodial institutions for those of adult age. The annual reports of our asylums have attested the grave disadvantage of receiving into their wards those of the mentally deficient class, and we trust that local authorities will use the powers they possess to emulate the example of the Manchester and Chorlton Unions, where Dr. Rhodes has initiated the establishment of a colony on the Alt-Scherbitz plan.

A somewhat similar class of cases deserving of sympathetic consideration, the insane epileptics, has attracted the special attention of the London County Council. It is found that there are between 600 and 800 male patients suffering from epilepsy in the asylums of the metropolis, and it is believed that many of these will be better treated apart from the insane. A new colony for them, capable of receiving 300, is to be established at Horton. This admirable scheme has our entire approval, for it proceeds on the principles laid down by Dr. Shuttleworth, and marks an effort on the part of the London County Council to individualise and discriminate in the treatment of the terrible aggregation of the mentally affected committed to their charge. We hope to present to our readers a full account of the position of affairs in regard to the housing of epileptics in the next number of the JOURNAL.

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*The Children of Criminals.*

We regret to notice that proposals have been made for the segregation of the children of criminals in special institutions. This well-meaning attempt to enlist the sympathy of the public on behalf of innocent sufferers for the misdeeds of others seems to us a mistaken policy. That these children should be, as it were, ear-marked for life by such a measure is bad enough; but that their environment should be degraded and their moral

training imperilled by constant association and mutual reminiscences is worse indeed. Just as it is the aim of the physician to dilute the insanity of the asylum by the largest possible proportion of staff to patients and by distributing the excited patients to the best of his ability, so should public administration abolish the rookeries of vice and disease, and make speed to detach the children of criminals from the surroundings and influences which threaten their future. The industrial schools of the country have done most admirable work in this department of philanthropy, although they have not escaped from censure and wrongful criticism. We look, however, to home care, under judicious supervision, to afford the best results; and the occasional failures which have been recorded in the working of this system in its present tentative condition form no solid ground for the proposals to which we thus adversely refer.

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*Peculiar People.*

The vagaries of men and women who retain so much of sanity as to enable them to keep outside asylum walls are of deep interest to the philosophic psychologist. We stand amazed at the waves of eccentricity which periodically overwhelm humanity. What tincture of common sense is there in "Christian Science?" What subtle something is there in its doctrine to attract people of education to its temple in London? The eternal gullible is, of course, always with us, and the promise of hope leads any whither if only the trumpet-call be clear and insistent.

It requires some patience to examine the teaching of the Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy, and to set forth her method of healing disease. Nevertheless, the *Westminster Budget* and the *British Medical Journal* have done what they could to elucidate the mysteries of her great discovery, and two recent inquests have enlightened us concerning the results. In truth, this farrago of pitiful nonsense, falsely heralded as Christianity and Science, is a very definite evil, and we cannot but regret that the defendants in the case of Harold Frederic escaped on a verdict of not guilty. When a man is weakened by disease,