

should be given to the question of the possibility of helping the patients in question more extensively. St. Luke's largely helps patients of this class, and several other registered hospitals do the same, but from the Commissioners' reports of the last few years it would seem that many of these institutions do very little, so that little help can be expected in this direction, the tendency of these institutions being to provide for patients at high rates, and their consequently enhanced rate of maintenance limiting their charitable action.

The private annexes offer a more favourable hope for the extension of aid, but these, too, are exposed to the temptations to which some of the registered hospitals have succumbed.

The solution of the problem would seem to lie in the establishment of special annexes or registered hospitals in which the cost of maintenance shall not be allowed to rise much beyond that of the ordinary pauper asylums, say 15s. per week, and in which the profits of patients paying more than that sum should be rigidly devoted to receiving as many patients as possible who can only afford to pay less.

If such self-denying institutions would not commend themselves, either to the founders of registered hospitals, or to the authorities of our public asylums, they could probably be established by the strong insistence of the Lunacy Commission, acting on the larger county councils.

There can be no doubt that there is here a great gap in the provision of treatment for a highly respectable and deserving element of the lower middle class, and it is certain that the establishment of institutions of the character indicated above would relieve a large amount of unmerited suffering.

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*Post-mortem Examinations in the Tyrone and Fermanagh Asylum.*

A contemporary medical paper states that the committee of management of the above-mentioned asylum has decided that in future no *post-mortem* examinations shall be made on the bodies of unclaimed persons, except in cases of suicide, accidental or doubtful death.

In face of the great advances made in modern pathology this appears to be a distinctly retrograde step. It would

certainly place the medical staff of the asylum at a disadvantage with other asylums in Ireland and other countries, in which more frequent opportunities are afforded for verifying their opinions and for investigating the forms of disease. It must tend to weaken or hinder the development of that keenness of interest and accuracy of knowledge of disease on the part of the medical officers which is so important in the successful treatment of their patients.

Such a retrograde restriction on the progress of medical knowledge would assuredly affect the reputation of the asylum adopting it.

The committee of management no doubt arrived at their decision on grounds that appeared cogent, but it is hoped that on a reconsideration of the subject they will appreciate the overwhelming importance of this aspect of the case, and save their institution from the stigma which so easily attaches in the present day to anything approaching a relapse into mediæval inappreciation of scientific knowledge.

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## Part II.—Reviews and Notices.

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*An Introduction to Social Psychology.* By WILLIAM McDOUGALL, M.B.Cantab. London: Methuen & Co., 1908. 8vo., pp. 355. Price 5s. net.

We regard this original and readable book as an important contribution towards a clearer understanding of psychology. It is direct in style, devoid of technicalities, and should be studied by all who desire to have a reasonable knowledge of mind. The author fearlessly embarks on a new venture, reconsiders the problems which lie in the very beginnings of mental manifestations and continue urgent in the latest phases of mental development. We are too apt to lose sight of fundamentals in studying psychological manifestations, to begin with complex and sophisticated materials. Here is a thinker who leads us back to instinct and the instinctive process, who elaborates the principle that all emotion is the affective aspect of instinctive process, who analyses complex emotions by the comparative method, not by unaided introspection, and who in the end presents a noteworthy theory of volition.

The reduction of all motives to the search for pleasure and the avoidance of pain is actively combated, and the vague faculty of conscience fares no better. Darwin indicated how this positive science must proceed upon the comparative and natural history method, and this work deals with mental characters which are of prime importance for