

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.

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*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.

There appear to be a number of bad spirits who often use bad language and give misleading information (through the usual planchette and other channels), and even personate other spirits, with intent to deceive. It is interesting to learn that one such bad spirit, by communication with a spiritualistic lady, had become quite a reformed character. This is most satisfactory, since from the police and law reports many have formed the opinion that the spirits had rather a pernicious effect on the characters of those who were in frequent communication with them, and were not generally likely to benefit by their friends in the flesh.

This reformed spirit, as a reward, asked the lady to bestow on him a "spirit dog," one of several of whose existence she had been unaware. Of course, if there are spirit dogs there must be spirit cats; and if they are not reformed! And if spirit dogs and cats, why not pigs and sheep? Imagine the spiritual property of a Chicago pork-butcher, or an Australian mutton millionaire!

This amusing publication has yet its pathetic side, when we deduce from its considerable circulation the large amount of potential lunacy that it connotes.

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*Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill.*

This Bill, now before Parliament, is practically a repetition of the last English Act. In approaching the subject, however, the authors of the Bill have had to make certain alterations to bring it into conformity with the law of Scotland as already existing. The clauses relative to separation of married people who have become habitual drunkards have been omitted in the Scottish Bill; but the constitution of licensing courts and of licensing law is generally amended. Additional penalties are imposed for offences involving drunkenness, and the black list will be extended north of the Tweed. Much-needed reforms in regard to the registration of clubs are introduced, and it is to be hoped that these will pass into law without delay. There are other matters to which we have repeatedly referred as requiring amendment in connection with drunkards and their doings; and it is to be hoped that amend-