

judices, feel it is useless even to controvert the errors in fact that are often advanced.

One writer in the cheapest of the halfpenny papers recently pointed out that the recovery rate in the metropolitan private asylums was only 34 *per cent.* as compared with 46 *per cent.* in the registered hospitals during the past year; he, however, discreetly ignored the fact that the recovery rate in the provincial private asylums was 52 *per cent.*, being 6 *per cent.* higher than the public hospitals and 14 *per cent.* above the county asylums.

The difference in the recovery rate in the provincial and the Metropolitan asylums is striking, and is no doubt due to the fact that the large private asylums in London deal with a population from which the recent and curable cases have been largely drained by Bethlem and other public institutions that exercise considerable selection in their admissions.

The recovery rate of the provincial private asylums, however, is strong evidence of the value of these institutions, and a satisfactory indication that the treatment therein provided is of an efficient character.

A Problem in Heredity.

Ovarian heteroplastic grafting is reported to have resulted in pregnancy and the birth of a living child in a case reported by Dr. R. T. Morris, in the *Medical Record* of May, 1906. The problems arising from this procedure are of considerable interest from several aspects.

The putative mother in such a case would be, of course, only a foster-mother, the foster-maternal function extending beyond the usual suckling stage of infant development to its earlier parasitic condition in intra-uterine life.

The practical social question is whether such a child would be a legal heir. Would a next-of-kin be able to dispute the heirship of a child springing from an adopted ovum?

The heredity questions on the scientific side are no less interesting, in regard to the effect on the child of such foster-mothering. The career of this and of other children born under similar conditions would be watched with the keenest interest, although it is probable that the actual value of the observations might not be great or convincing.