

disease. The person applying will be regarded as an out-patient of the asylum, and the only charge will be the cost price of any medicine the medical staff may think desirable to supply. This has been done on the initiative of the Duke of Grafton, who is on the Committee of Visitors. While expert advice should be freely tendered to the poorer classes by the medical staffs of our asylums, it seems to us a doubtful policy to supply medicines at cost price. Nourishing food and other medical comforts are just as often required as medicines; and it is important to enlist the co-operation of the general practitioners, who are more constantly in touch with such patients than the asylum physicians can be. For obvious reasons, we should have preferred to have learned that the place of consultation had been fixed at the local hospital, as has proved so successful in other places. The arrangements now made may, however, develop in that direction; and we heartily support the principle of assistance to incipient cases at the hands of physicians exceptionally well qualified to give the aid so much required.

Down District Asylum.—A new wing has been opened at this asylum. It has been designed as a male infirmary, equivalent to the similar wing for women which has been for some time in occupation. The male infirmary can now accommodate fifty-six patients instead of fifteen as before—that is equal to 20 per cent. of the whole male division. Very considerable additions and improvements have also been made in the administrative parts of the building. At the last meeting of the Board of Governors, now replaced under the new *régime*, Dr. Nolan and Dr. Clark had the honour of being specially thanked in a complimentary minute.

Utica State Hospital.—This historic institution has lost the distinguished services of Dr. Alder Blumer. His many friends on this side will learn with interest that he has accepted the appointment of Physician-Superintendent to the Butler Hospital for the Insane, at Providence, R.I. On taking his farewell, Dr. Blumer said that, on being offered the appointment to a hospital held in such high esteem and famous since the days of Isaac Ray, he had to carefully consider the sacrifice he made in leaving Utica. He felt bound to go in his own interests and those of his family. Dr. Blumer concluded with an eloquent survey of the period of his service in New York State, and expressed his thanks to the managers for their rich sympathy and strong support. The managers accepted Dr. Blumer's resignation with great reluctance, and recorded their feeling that he had proved an ideal superintendent. We congratulate the Butler Hospital on having secured the services of one who is so highly esteemed at home and abroad, and hope that Dr. Blumer will see many and happy years of service in his new appointment.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF EPILEPTICS.

The Duke and Duchess of York visited Chalfont St. Peter, on the 23rd June last, to open four new homes at the Colony of the Society for the Employment of Epileptics, of which his Royal Highness is president. These new homes increase the existing accommodation by nearly 100 beds. The Duke of York having declared them open, reviewed the history of the Society, and recounted what had been done elsewhere. The donors were thanked on the motion of Sir William Broadbent, and Mr. J. Passmore-Edwards replied.

THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

This important development of philanthropy is making headway in a very remarkable manner. The Lancashire and Cheshire Society for the Permanent Care of the Feeble-minded met in Manchester in May, when Miss Dendy, who has given great impetus to this particular association, addressed those present in a long, interesting speech, which was fully reported in the *Manchester Guardian*. Miss