

"(3) Sometimes the name of the asylum to which the lunatic is to be conveyed is left blank in the reception order. The Law Officers of the Crown have advised that, unless the name of the asylum to which the lunatic is to be removed is stated in the reception order when it is made, the order cannot legally be acted on; and Mr. Ritchie thinks it very important that the requirement of the Lunacy Act in this matter should be complied with.

"(4) I am to call your attention to Section 27 (2) of the Lunacy Act, and to say that it is important that justices should very carefully ascertain that there is a deficiency of room or that there are some special circumstances before they authorise a lunatic to be sent to some institution other than the county asylum. The cost in any such institution is, of course, much greater than in the county asylums, and in some instances the institution is situate at a considerable distance from the place from which the lunatic is sent, and he may thus be entirely cut off from his friends."

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#### LADY INSPECTORS OF ASYLUMS.

A letter to the Editor of the *Irish Times* states that it is in contemplation to appoint a lady inspector of Irish asylums, and suggests that four will be required at a remuneration of £200 to £300 a year each, with travelling expenses. We anxiously await the opinion of the gentleman inspectors as to this proposal.

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#### STATE INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES.

The Home Secretary, in pursuance of his powers under the Inebriates Act, 1898, has issued regulations for the management and discipline of State inebriate reformatories, the general superintendence of which shall, he directs, be vested in the Prison Commissioners, subject to the control of the Secretary of State, to be assisted in the performance of this duty by an inspector having special knowledge of the treatment of inebriety. The regulations provide for the appointment by the Secretary of State of visitors, who shall meet as a committee at the reformatory not less than eight times in the year to hear the complaints of inmates and to perform other functions connected with the control and inspection of the reformatories. After dealing with the admission, transfer, and discharge of inmates, the regulations provide that no spirituous liquors of any kind shall be admitted to the reformatory for the use of any inmate under any pretence whatever, except in pursuance of a written order of the medical officer. There are to be three classes of inmates—penal, ordinary, and special,—the penal class to be reserved as a punishment class to which inmates may be degraded for serious offences committed in the reformatory. Detailed regulations follow as to employment, health and recreation, instruction, and dietary.

It is also reported that pending the erection of permanent buildings, temporary accommodation for women at least will soon be available.

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#### REPORT OF THE DALRYMPLE HOME.

The report of the Dalrymple Home at Rickmansworth, by Dr. F. S. D. Hogg, the medical superintendent, relates to 606 cases that have been discharged since the home was opened. Of these 282 were under the Inebriates Act, and 324 were private. While of those under the Act 35 per cent. entered for twelve months (by no means too long a period), and 30 per cent. for three months, of the private patients only 15 per cent. entered for twelve months, and 50 per cent. entered for only three months. In 40 per cent. of the 600 odd cases there was no family history obtainable of either inebriety or insanity; in 7.5 per cent. there was an hereditary history of insanity, and in 52.5 one of inebriety, most often in the parents, but almost as often in uncles and aunts. In 22 of the 606 cases there was an associated opium habit, and in six of these there was a cocaine habit in addition. In six there was an associated addiction to chloral, in two to sulphonal, and in two to cocaine without opium. In 70 per cent. of the total cases the drinking habits were described as "regular," and in nearly 30 per cent. as "periodical." The