

minds, just as a demented patient becomes reasonable and intelligent for a time when his attention is aroused and his scattered faculties concentrated by an illness or an accident. But the enforced abstinence from drinking and debauchery is beyond doubt the chief cause of the decreased insanity; and this is strongly confirmed by the fact that the diminution is observed only among the men, a large proportion of whom are habitually dissipated."

These observations are in no way inconsistent with the opinion that a *prolonged* strike or *prolonged* depression of trade and greatly diminished wages would increase the production of insanity. In such increase, both sexes would suffer, and melancholia would be the prevalent type.

This is precisely what Dr. Pringle, my successor at the Glamorgan Asylum, observed in 1875, and has recorded in his annual report for that year. Commenting on the large increase of the asylum population during the year, in both sexes, but especially men, he says: "It would thus appear that a prolonged depression of trade such as the past year has witnessed has the opposite effect of a temporary 'strike.' The latter diminishes the male admissions by arresting intemperance, and its voluntary and simultaneous character braces the men to endurance; but the former, whether resulting from a 'lock-out' or otherwise, is involuntary, inevitable, and prolonged, so that while equally arresting intemperance it induces a feeling of universal gloom and depression in addition to the poverty. To these influences the hardest livers are of course the first to succumb, and thus the male admissions are materially increased."

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"Amongst the admissions the unusual number of melancholiacs has been very striking, and has no doubt been caused by the depressed state of trade and the general condition of gloom and suffering thereby produced."

Again, in his Annual Report for 1878 Dr. Pringle writes:—

"The admissions have been unusually numerous. . . . That such a great increase of insanity should take place at the present time, when trade is so depressed and wages so small, and the classes from which this asylum is supplied can scarcely get food and certainly have very little money to spend on drink, may well cause astonishment; but I believe this increase is simply a marked illustration of the well-known doctrine of the 'survival of the fittest' by the succumbing of those whose brains are unable to bear the strain of poverty and hardship in addition to the weakening influences of former intemperance, of family tendency, or other causes which might not of themselves have induced an attack of insanity."

Whether the production of insanity in a wage-earning population is greater when wages are high or when they are low thus seems to depend mainly on circumstances, specially on the wisdom with which high wages are used, and on the length of time during which poverty has to be endured.

The experience of Glamorgan corrects while it confirms that of Hereford.

Yours, &c.,

D. YELLOWLEES.

Gartnavel,
Sept. 7, 1882.

Appointments.

BIRT, C., M.R.C.S., appointed third Assistant Medical Officer to the South Yorkshire County Lunatic Asylum, vice H. C. MacBryan, L.R.C.P., resigned.

CAMPBELL, PATRICK ED., M.B., C.M., appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer to the Metropolitan District Asylum, Caterham, Surrey, vice G. S. Seccombe, resigned.

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CRALLAN, GEO. ED. J., B.A.Cantab., M.R.C.S.Eng., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the County Lunatic Asylum, Cambridge.

DENNING C. E., L.R.C.S.I., appointed Junior Assistant Medical Officer to the County Asylum, Shrewsbury.

GRABHAM, DR. G. W., Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for Idiots, Earlswood, appointed Inspector of Lunatic Asylums in New Zealand.

HYSLOP, JAMES, M.D., appointed to the Petermaritzburg Asylum, Natal, S. Africa.

MACGREGOR, J. F., M.B., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Riccarton Asylum, Paisley, vice J. A. Wilson, M.B., resigned.

MACKEW, S., M.B., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Roxburgh, Berwick, and Selkirk District Asylum, Montrose.

MAPOTHER, EDWD. DILLON, M.D.Q.U.I., F.R.C.S.I., appointed one of the Physicians to the Maison de Santé, Dublin, vice Duncan.

MASTERTON, J., M.B., appointed Deputy-Assistant Medical Officer to the Ruberry Hill Borough Lunatic Asylum, Bromsgrove.

MILES, G. E., M.R.C.S., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Northumberland House Asylum, N.

MOORE, WM. DAVID, M.D., M.Ch.Q.U.I., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Wilts County Asylum, vice Llewelyn F. Cox, M.R.C.S., resigned.

NIXON, CHRISTOPHER JOHN, M.B.Dublin, F.K.Q.C.P.I., appointed Visiting Physician to the Dundrum Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum, vice Hughes.

PARRY, Mr. H., to be Clinical Assistant to the Darent Asylum for Imbecile Children.

PETT, JOSEPH, L.R.C.S.I., L.K.Q.C.P.I., appointed Resident Medical Superintendent of the Sligo District Lunatic Asylum.

ROBERTSON, E. WAGSTAFF, M.B., C.M.Aberd., appointed Resident Medical Superintendent to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and Lunatic Asylum.

ROWLAND, E. D., M.B., appointed Resident Clinical Assistant to the West Riding Lunatic Asylum, Wakefield.

SECCOMBE, GEO. S., L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Metropolitan District Asylum, Caterham, appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies Medical Superintendent of the Colonial Asylum, Port of Spain.

SHEPHERD, T. A. J., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.Lond., appointed Second Assistant Medical Officer to the Surrey County Asylum, Brookwood.

TAYLOR, J., M.B., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Borough Lunatic Asylum, Newcastle-on-Tyne, vice J. S. Crampton, L.R.C.P., resigned.

WHITE, A. T. O., M.R.C.S., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Metropolitan Asylum for Imbeciles.

WILSON, J. A., M.B., C.M., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Govan Poorhouse and Asylum, Merryflats, Govan.

ERRATA.

In the July number—For "spent several days at the one well-known asylum" read "spent several days at one well-known asylum."

Under "Appointments," Dr. E. B. Mitchell's appointment should have been Assistant Medical Officer to the Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

P. 198, line 37, for "fewer men than women," read "more men than women."