

been taken in hand during the year, including the erection of a nurses' home, "which will set free 50 beds for the use of patients," while in order to meet the present urgent requirements for accommodation at the hospital patients are being boarded at Canterbury, and negotiations are being carried on to board out further patients under Section 26 (L.A., 1890) at a Poor Law institution in the county.

A considerable proportion of the nursing staff hold the certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

#### SCOTLAND.

*Inverness District Asylum.*—The report is for the year ending May, 1926. There were remaining on the register at the end of the year a total of 717 patients—that is, an increase of 9 males and 18 females on the corresponding figure at the commencement of the year. There were admitted during the year 162 patients (males 77, females 85), in whom the form of mental disease was principally melancholia or mania; heredity was ascertained as a predisposing factor in 69 of the cases, and in 58 a previous attack had occurred; alcohol was assigned as a cause in only one case.

The recovery-rate for the year was 35·8% calculated on the admissions, and of the 162 admissions, 30 recovered during the year. The death-rate calculated on the average number resident was 8·2%, senile decay and phthisis pulmonalis being responsible for 56% of all the deaths.

Dr. Mackenzie is to be congratulated on the appearance of his nursing staff at the examinations of the Royal Medico-Psychological examination, seeing that for the second year in succession all his candidates for the final examination were successful, and even more is he to be congratulated on the fact that during the year 52 nurses and 25 attendants have been under training and instruction for this certificate.

Like many other mental hospitals, this one is faced with the difficulty of accommodation, and Dr. Mackenzie points out that this is a question closely related to that of the admission of private patients to public mental hospitals and also the reception into these hospitals of rate-paid voluntary patients. With regard to the first of these, the District Board decided in 1909, owing to pressure on their accommodation, that private patients should not be admitted, and with regard to the second, Dr. Mackenzie quotes excerpts from recent reports of the Board of Control, which indicate some of the factors governing the situation:

"In one of the Royal Asylums this admission of voluntary private patients has proceeded to such an extent that the admission-rate of voluntary patients now exceeds that of certified private patients.

"Voluntaryism on the part of pauper patients is handicapped by the fact that the Lunacy Grant of £115,000 is paid to parish councils towards the cost of certified lunatics. Consequently, a parish council is reluctant to pay for a voluntary inmate in an asylum, as the proportion of grant, amounting to about 2s. 9d. weekly, for each patient would be lost.

"It is noteworthy that ten parishes in the district of Argyllshire have agreed to give facilities for any person in their districts who requires institutional care on account of mental condition to enter the District asylum voluntarily as a rate-aided patient.

"During the year under review 431 voluntary inmates have been admitted to asylums, compared with 381 in the previous year. This increasing number of voluntary inmates is mainly among the private class of patients, and in some institutions receiving chiefly private patients the admission-rate of voluntary inmates exceeds that of certified patients. The changes that have taken place among the voluntary inmates are naturally much more numerous, relatively, than among the certified class, owing to the fact that voluntary patients usually suffer from a milder form of mental disorder, and consequently are more responsive to care and treatment. They generally leave the institution after a short period of residence completely recovered or much improved.

"The tendency of parish councils to pay the cost of voluntary patients in District asylums, a tendency which was referred to in our previous Report, continues to develop, and a number of other parishes have followed the example of the ten parishes in Argyllshire, and are now giving facilities for persons from their districts who require institutional care to enter district asylums voluntarily as rate-aided patients. These Local Authorities are fully aware of the fact that they thereby lose the Government grant, which is distributed in respect of expenditure incurred upon certified lunatic patients only, but they have been convinced that early treatment on this voluntary basis may in some cases prevent patients from becoming permanent burdens on the local rates."

#### THE GOVERNMENT MENTAL HOSPITALS OF EGYPT.

This report includes the report of the Director of Lunacy (Dr. Dudgeon) and the reports of the two mental hospitals at Abbasiya and Khanka for the year 1924. This year is marked by the transference of the "Lunacy Division," previously attached to the Ministry of the Interior, to the Department of Public Health. The total existing accommodation provided for cases of mental disease for the whole of Egypt is at the two hospitals mentioned and consists of 2,143 beds (Abbasiya 1503, Khanka 640)—that is, in the proportion of one bed to 5,000 population, and the number of patients in residence is already far ahead of the accommodation provided. Abbasiya receives all female cases, all criminal lunatics and all paying male cases; Khanka admits all non-criminal pauper male cases. Owing to the pressure of accommodation a large number of patients have to be discharged when the acute symptoms have disappeared to the care of relatives, though still insane, and as there are resident at Abbasiya 500 criminal cases, Dr. Dudgeon very naturally points out that the normal way to relieve this pressure is to provide a separate criminal asylum.

*Abbasiya Mental Hospital.*—A great deal of work has been done to bring this old institution up to date in the matter of pulling down walls, letting in light and air, with results that are entirely gratifying. The number of admissions for the year was 663, and 312 cases were discharged, still insane, to the care of their relatives, and the recovery-rate was a little over 20%. Of the 149 accused persons sent to the hospital for examination and observation 28 were returned for trial as not insane, and the chief forms of mental