

of Reference to the Health Resorts and Institutions for Patients of Great Britain. It is printed by Mr. E. J. Frampton, at Bournemouth, and sets forth the information indicated on the title-page at considerable length.

Beginning with a short *résumé* of the procedure in cases of insanity, a list of asylums is given, arranged according to the counties in which they are placed. Ireland is represented by three, and Scotland by one institution for the insane, so that the compilers' remark that the first issue is not so complete as was desired must be held as fully justified. They might consult the Medical Directory with advantage. Then comes a list of a few convalescent homes, institutions for the blind, and for the deaf and dumb. The compilers find room for a few remarks on ophthalmia neonatorum, and indicate that medical treatment is a preventative of blindness, thus guiding the medical practitioners of the country into safe ground. A list of medical men receiving resident patients, giving all particulars except the names, will be useful to those who have found it difficult to obtain such information otherwise. A number of hydropathic establishments and nursing institutions find a place in the book, and a chapter on health resorts gives a brief account of various localities from the medical point of view. Lastly, a list of selected hotels at health resorts has been inserted, which may be of service to those who possess neither Bradshaw nor Baedeker. We suggest that the hotels of the country should be left to advertise themselves, and that the space occupied by details of county asylums which can only receive the State-supported patients in their own districts, and by snippets of unnecessary medical commonplace, should be devoted to an extension of the information as to establishments where paying patients are received. The book has been well indexed, so that the contents are readily accessible.

An Australian Scandal.

The *Lancet* of last year gave details of a great wrong committed in Melbourne, a wrong whereby our respected colleague, Dr. Beattie Smith, has been grossly injured. The result is that he is no longer in the service of the State of Victoria, but after

twenty years of notable work in the asylums of that country, within a short step of reaching the highest place, he is cast adrift without pension or compensation. The political record of Victoria is debased still further by this last example of shameless misgovernment. Dr. Beattie Smith has had to give place to an assistant medical officer, who, if the allegations against him reported in the *Lancet* ⁽¹⁾ are to be trusted, was utterly unfit for the post. The "Minister" at the head of the department, however, acted in spite of the Inspector's protest. The callous indecency of the incident, as related by the Australian correspondent of the *Lancet*, passes belief, were it not that it is of a piece with what has gone before. We trust that the Council of the Association will carefully consider the whole question raised by this act of Victorian maladministration, for it not only affects one of our members, but vitally touches the interests of the insane in those important asylums at the Antipodes.

(1) See "Notes and News."

The International Medical Congress at Madrid.

The fourteenth International Medical Congress is now a thing of the past. About 7000 members attended it, exclusive of the wives and families accompanying them. For some unknown reason the Madrid authorities included in the Congress not only doctors, but dentists, veterinarians, and pharmacists as well. This was too large a number of persons for the authorities to manage, and consequently a good deal of confusion prevailed. The Spaniard is a polite, courteous gentleman, but his business capacity is decidedly wanting. Moreover, the results of that fatal word *mañana* (to-morrow) were everywhere in evidence, and arrangements which should have been made weeks before were only just concluded when the Congress opened. An account of the proceedings of the neurological section appears on another page. From it it will be seen that the Association had honours conferred on it by the election of three of its members to the position of Honorary Presidents. The difficulty of understanding what was said by the Spaniards, however, led many men to forsake the Congress