

accounted for about 7 *per cent.* of the admissions. In 30 *per cent.* of all admitted hereditary predisposition was traced.

*Some English Hospitals.*

*Barnwood.*—We are most glad to read that out of the favourable surplus of income no less a sum than £4671 has been appropriated to increasing the Pension Fund, which now stands at the value of £17,000. Nothing can react more strongly on the care of the patients and the general progress of the institution than such a pledge to the future. The rating authorities have suddenly raised the ratable value of the hospital from £807 to £2030. Remonstrance succeeded in reducing the latter sum to £1800, with which, of course, the Committee are not satisfied, and they will appeal again. The extra amount of rates thus imposed would probably suffice to keep two patients. Dr. Soutar mentions a case which recovered after five years' illness. No improvement was seen till many stumps had been extracted and replaced by artificial teeth. After that she never looked back.

*Bethlem.*—The number of admissions exceeded the average population, and no less than 43 *per cent.* of those admissions were on urgency orders. This was a substantial increase on the 28 *per cent.* of the preceding years, and resulted from the unusual number of acute cases requiring immediate treatment. Forty-five voluntary patients were admitted, and in the course of the year twenty of this class had to be certified. Rather more than one third of the admissions had been previously insane, and just about two thirds were recent cases of active melancholia and mania.

*Wonford House.*—It is satisfactory to read that the Committee can report their being satisfied that the institution is in a thoroughly sound condition, and that steady progress is being made. Of the 131 patients 47 paid less than the actual cost of maintenance, while 16 others paid less than the average income. The benefaction thus rendered is termed "assistance," which is far pleasanter and truer than "charity." The latter rather implies active monetary goodwill on the part of someone, which is not exercisable in unendowed hospitals, since the means of assistance can only be found in the excess payments of richer patients. The recovery rate was unfortunately lower than it had been for thirty years, but, as Dr. Deas points out, only thirteen out of the thirty-seven presented any hope of recovery on admission. Three out of twenty male admissions were attributed to sexual excess, but only one to alcoholic intemperance.

*Some Scotch District Asylums.*

*Inverness.*—On the advice of Dr. Keay the District Board made a determined effort in the direction of "boarding out," with the result that sixty-five were removed in last year. Only seven were returned as unsuitable. The inconveniences of having one hall for eating, recreation, and public worship are commented on, and it is somewhat surprising to read that two halls were originally provided for the latter purposes, but

were converted into dormitories under pressure of space, and remain as dormitories to this day. In glancing through the statistical tables we note that the causation in one case is attributed to general paralysis. We have before adverted to this matter in connection with other Scottish asylums. We conceive that it is not altogether an untenable view that general paralysis might be deemed to be organic brain disease, and thus returnable as a cause. But this can only be in a case where the evidences of paralysis, such as are seen in a case of general paralysis of the insane, are found in an absolutely sane man. The rarity of such a combination of circumstances would justify a full history of any case in which it existed. On turning to the next table (the form of insanity) we find that two patients admitted are classified under the heading of general paralysis.

*Lanark.*—The Commissioner reports :

A very pleasing feature in the treatment of the patients was the large amount of interesting literature which was freely distributed throughout the institution. On the tables in every ward there were found books, magazines, and newspapers. Such a generous and thoughtful provision for the entertainment and the distraction of the inmates of asylums is, unfortunately, not common. The number of patients who were seen reading shows that the privilege is appreciated, and Dr. Kerr stated that the number of books destroyed is not great. The arrangement added markedly to the homeliness of the wards, and it no doubt increases the contentment of the patients.

As far as we can calculate from the figures in the report, this excellent asylum seems to have cost considerably less than £300 per bed, all the later additions being included in the computation.

*Roxburgh.*—This asylum had the misfortune to be the subject of an expensive and fruitless lawsuit, which has demonstrated that the Secretary of State in Scotland can send a criminal lunatic to any asylum he likes. The asylum authorities have to bear the cost of maintenance unless they can saddle some parish with it. In this case no parish could be thus saddled. As the asylum authorities could get no redress they gave notice to all concerned that the patient would be discharged on a certain day. This was done, but the report does not say what was the after history. We are under the impression that such a course would be illegal in England.

Dr. Johnstone gives the particulars of an escape. A man who had a good deal of liberty absented himself for a few days and then returned of his own accord. Later on he absented himself for six months, working at his trade as an engineer near Glasgow. When he found "the outside world less kind than the asylum he came back and begged to be taken in again."

The assignment of 139 causes in 78 admissions betokens more than usual energy in unearthing etiology. In nearly half the cases hereditary predisposition was found.

*Some Scottish Royal Chartered Asylums.*

*The Crichton.*—A specially designed sanatorium for the care and treatment of phthisical patients was nearly completed at the time of report. It is built of wood on a brick foundation, with a slated roof. The wards