

very slowly. He was ill for three years before permanent asylum detention became imperative, and three years more elapsed before the symptoms reached their maximum severity. The first and second had vivid delusions that remained firmly fixed in their minds for several years, and in the third there were automatic movements and wet and dirty habits also persisting for years.

An interesting feature of the cases is the completeness of the recoveries. The long and severe illnesses left no traces behind them, and the patients retained their mental faculties unimpaired.

When recovery took place not one of the cases had been under any special "treatment" for several years. The dyspeptic symptoms which two of them suffered from had been diligently treated with all the approved drugs in succession, without any obvious result. In both cases medication had long been discontinued. The repugnance of E. M. to animal food, and his preference for the starchy and saccharine food stuffs, which he was consuming in large amount when he recovered, is an interesting fact in connection with Dr. Clouston's well-known teaching.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

The Epileptic Colony.

We are glad to be able to record that on November 14th, 1894, the stone of the first permanent building of the Industrial Colony for Epileptics was successfully laid at Chalfont St. Peter's, Buckinghamshire. As our readers are aware, the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics founded this Institution. The benevolence of Mr. Passmore Edwards rendered it possible for the committee to erect it on this spot, and he, as was only proper, laid the foundation stone. Many will recall the occasion when a meeting at the Mansion House was held, the then Lord Mayor, Sir Stuart Knill, presiding, for the purpose of passing certain resolutions in favour of adopting the scheme which has now been inaugurated. Last August temporary galvanized iron buildings were erected, and about a dozen epileptics have been admitted; the farm consisting of about 130 acres of land. Among those who attended the ceremony, which took place

on a miserably wet day, were Dr. Ferier, Dr. Buzzard, Dr. Savage, Dr. A. Turner, Dr. Fletcher Beach, Dr. Colman, Dr. James Taylor, and others who took an interest in this movement. The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. Nicholls, recounted the history of the scheme, and explained that the committee would proceed as quickly as possible with the work, having regard to the amount of donations they received. For women and children distinct provision will be made. A speech was delivered by Dr. Buzzard, who spoke of the satisfaction with which the experiment on the present small scale had been attended. The general health of the colonists has strikingly improved, and the fits of epilepsy have diminished in number. On the latter point it is too soon to speak with enthusiasm, because everyone knows that with regard to this neurosis any change in treatment or in locality will produce excellent, but, alas, only temporary, results. It is not, however, necessary to lay too much stress on this psychological fact when addressing a lay audience.

The provision for epileptics on the same lines as those which are being carried out at Chalfont St. Peter's, has been advocated by Dr. William Pryor Letchworth, LL.D., in a very lucid manner in a Paper read before the National Conference of Charities and Correction, held at Nashville, Tenn., May 23rd to 28th, 1894. In what follows we shall freely avail ourselves of information given in this address. Dr. Peterson, of New York, who has been an earnest advocate of the colony system, observes that:—"There is but one kind of institution which can meet the case of those who suffer from this disease. No asylum, no large hospital, no single vast building in a great City is appropriate for the purpose." After enumerating the special arrangements required, he proceeds:—"Such a place would not be a hospital in the ordinary sense of the term; it would be a village in itself." Ohio was the first State in the United States to provide an Institution for Epileptics, the foundation stone of which was laid November 12th, 1891, at Gallipolis. Through private charity hospital cottages had been erected for children suffering from various affections, including epilepsy. In September, 1893, there were 103 children. The number treated during the fifteen previous months was 170. Two-thirds of this number were epileptics. The Governor of Massachusetts in 1892 recommended to the Legislature early action in regard to

making State provision for epileptics, and advocating Cottage Hospitals. During the Session of 1893 nothing was done. The Board of Lunacy and Charity in the following year pressed immediate attention being given to this subject. At Elwyn, Penn., the Training School for Feeble-minded Children (which will always be associated with the lamented Dr. Kerlin's name), two buildings are now set apart for epileptic children. In Philadelphia a hospital for sane epileptics has been recently opened in connection with St. Clement's Church parish, the building having been formerly known as St. Clement's Hospital.

At Santa Clara, California, the Home for Feeble-Minded Children secured from the Legislature in 1887 permission to establish an epileptic department, in which there are now 100 inmates. This movement was due to the action of Dr. Osborne. In Michigan the Legislature has agreed to provide cottages for epileptics and the feeble-minded, and for this purpose a farm has been purchased. In Minnesota a school for feeble-minded, with a department for epileptics, has been established at Faribault. The Secretary of the Board of Corrections and Charities of Minnesota states that about 120 epileptics are under public care there.

The New York Legislature has passed an Act, entitled "An Act to establish an Epileptic Colony, and making an appropriation therefor." The objects of the colony established in consequence are described as follows:—"To secure the humane, curative, scientific, and economical treatment and care of epileptics, exclusive of insane epileptics." It was decided that the general plan adopted should be in accordance with the recommendations laid down in the Report of the State Boards of Charities to the Legislature. Dr. Letchworth gives a map of the Craig Colony Estate, which is situated at Souyea, Livingston Co., N.Y., named in honour of the late Hon. Oscar Craig, whose public services are thus commemorated. It ought to be stated that the plans were based upon principles previously enunciated by Dr. Peterson, who is a member of the Managing Board, and in fact its president. From our personal knowledge of Dr. Peterson this position is certainly his due, and reflects honour upon himself and upon those who have recognized his merits.

Having in view all that has been done in the United States, and even so far back as in the forties in France, where Pastor Bost, of La Force, near Bordeaux, was the real originator of the colony system, and again in Germany under the inspira-

tion of Pastor v. Bodelschwingh at Bielefeld,* it would have been a disgrace to our own country had nothing been done for sane epileptics in the manner now witnessed in the new colony in Buckinghamshire. The actual therapeutic results will, likely enough, be exaggerated with the pious hope of obtaining liberal subscriptions from the public, but we doubt not that the good effected will be of a substantial character.

Judicial Lunacy Orders.

In view of the uncertainty which exists among medical men as to the position of magistrates "specially appointed" to exercise the powers conferred on "the judicial authority" by the Lunacy Acts, and, we may add, in view of the very singular ideas which some of these magistrates themselves appear to entertain with regard to the manner in which their duties may be discharged,† we propose to state briefly what we consider the law on this important subject to be. Under the Lunacy Act of 1890, section 9—re-enacting section 2, sub-section 1 of the Lunacy Act, 1889—the powers of "the judicial authority" (as to reception and urgency orders) are to be exercised by "a justice of the peace specially appointed as hereinafter provided, or a judge of county courts, or magistrate, having respectively jurisdiction in the place where the lunatic is." It is with these specially appointed magistrates that we here propose chiefly to deal. They are appointed annually by the justices of every county and quarter sessions borough (section 10, sub-section 1) at their Michaelmas quarter sessions or October special sessions respectively (*ib.* sub-section 2), or in default of such appointment, by the Lord Chancellor (sub-section 3); and provision is made for interim appointments in the case of insufficiency, or of the death, absence, inability, or refusal to act of any of these specially appointed justices (*ib.* sections 3-6). The Lunacy Act of 1891, section 24, carries matters a little further. It provides—meeting a difficulty which had been pointed out, *viz.*, that a magistrate having jurisdiction in the place where the

* See Journal, Vol. xxxviii., p. 214, etc. The same number contains a notice of the colony of the Countess of Meath.

† *Cf.* Letter, "In Search of a Magistrate," in the last October number of this Journal, p. 708.