

treatment of lunatics by transferring them to such institutions from asylums. Even the Poor Law Guardians themselves, not generally very humane or very advanced in their views about such matters, are beginning to feel that workhouses are hardly suitable places for the insane on the lines of management which have hitherto characterised those unhappy establishments. In discussing this subject more than a year ago our contemporary, the *British Medical Journal*, pointed out that "to feed an Irish convict for one week costs 3s. 11d.; to feed a healthy Irish lunatic costs 3s. 5d.; to feed a healthy Irish pauper for the same period costs 1s. 5d.; and an aged and infirm pauper 1s. 4d." To which of the two last enviable classes the workhouse lunatic is supposed officially to belong we are not informed.

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*The Temporary Treatment of Incipient Insanity.*

The sudden collapse of the Lunacy Bill last year brought to a standstill the work of the conjoint Committee of the British Medical Association and our own on this subject.

This Committee, it is to be hoped, will still continue its labours, and be prepared, before the next Session of Parliament, with a workable adaptation to the English law of the Scottish clause dealing with the same stage of mental disease.

The Lord Chancellor will almost certainly introduce a "Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill" in the coming Session, and it would be a reflection on the business capacity of the profession if this found us unprepared with a practical proposition, on a point regarding which there had been such an emphatic expression of professional opinion.

The profession at large is too apt to undervalue the power it possesses of influencing legislation, but in the passing of the recent Lunacy Acts we had many opportunities of proving how great this power really is, a fact which should be remembered as an encouragement to future efforts in the same direction.

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*Provision for the Poor Private Insane.*

The last Report of the General Board of Lunacy for Scotland contains a most important and urgent appeal for legislative measures in relief of the poorer classes of the insane