

Under these circumstances the Association makes the following suggestions to those examining bodies who have asked for guidance on the subject.

The Association suggests:

(1) That the candidate must be a registered medical practitioner of not less than two years' standing at the time of examination.

(2) That the candidate, subsequent to qualification, must have been in the practice of a recognised institution for the insane for not less than twelve months, that is to say, he must have held a whole-time appointment therein as medical officer or clinical assistant for that length of time.

(3) That the candidate must produce evidence that he has attended, subsequent to qualification, courses of lectures and practical instruction on the following five compulsory subjects, or that he has otherwise diligently studied the same:

(a) Neurology: the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the nervous system

(b) Psychology.

(c) Clinical pathology.

(d) Clinical neurology.

(e) Psychiatry, lectures and demonstrations on, and the jurisprudence of psychiatry.

And on one of the following five optional subjects:

(a) Advanced psychology.

(b) Bio-chemistry.

(c) Bacteriology.

(d) Comparative anatomy and physiology of the nervous system.

(e) Eugenics.

(4) That the curriculum should consist of three terms of approximately three months each, or equivalents of these periods to suit local terms or sessions.

Having regard to the important position of neurology to the other subjects, it is believed that it will be necessary to devote not less than one third of the time of the extra-institutional part of the curriculum to its study.

A syllabus detailing the scope of the subjects enumerated above will doubtless be made by each examining body, but a model syllabus is in course of preparation.

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#### FOREIGN DIFFICULTIES.

THE *Standard* of March 15th reports that 280 patients have been discharged from the public asylums of Bohemia owing to financial difficulties. These arise from political complications preventing the Budget being passed, so that the Provincial Government has been impelled to this extraordinary course. The criminal insane will in future be confined in prisons because they are found to be far cheaper than asylums, and this enforced economy has also suspended all building, and stopped all subventions to charitable institutions.

From St. Petersburg it is reported that the patients in the asylum have become so numerous that beds cannot be found for them, and the staff is subjected to the greatest difficulties in management. Indeed, a short notice in a German newspaper makes a statement of a nature implying a want of all decency and ordinary comfort such as can hardly be believed in this country. The *Lancet* says that Professor Bechtereff, President of the recent Congress of Russian Psychiatrists, has given a similar account of the terrible position of the neglected patients, and according to Dr. E. V. Erickson the condition of the insane in Poland is most unsatisfactory.

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#### COMPLIMENTARY.

##### PRESENTATION PORTRAITS TO DR. CLOUSTON.

A NUMEROUS company of ladies and professional gentlemen assembled in the hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, yesterday afternoon, on the occasion of the presentation of portraits of Dr. Clouston, subscribed for by friends in recognition of his long connection with the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the Insane. In the absence of Mr. Adam, Chairman of the Managing Board of the Asylum, Professor Rankine presided.