

or asylum treatment. A reaction towards stricter legal enforcement threatens the many existing institutions and kills progress. Is illegal detention of a sane man—that man constantly mentioned and never found—more socially menacing than cases of incipient insanity, constitutional psychopathic disorder, drug addiction, curable insanities, harmless manias and mental infirmities? The writer demands relief from his dilemma of being either a bad citizen contravening the law, or a bad physician withholding from his patients treatment in the spirit of contemporary medicine. The Société de Médecine Mentale de Belgique, which has long advocated improved organisations for neuro-psychopathic diseases, should urge both toleration and changes in the law. Confinement in asylums should be exceptional. Sanatoria should be scientific, should have the responsible physician resident and equal to asylum status, and be inspected sympathetically by a medical body available also for consultation. The patient's material interests should be protected by legal authority.

MARJORIE E. FRANKLIN.

*A Plea for more Accurate Diagnosis and Intensive Treatment of Syphilis in State Institutions. (State Hosp. Quart., August, 1921.) Ross, J. R.*

This plea for greater use of the opportunities which hospital control affords for the diagnosis and treatment of syphilis is based on replies to a *questionnaire* sent to institutions for the insane and mental defectives in U.S.A. and Canada, and on personal experience as superintendent of Dannemora State Hospital. At Dannemora, of syphilitic cases which received adequate treatment (limited by expense to 25 *per cent.*), with the exception of paretics, all responded by changes in the Wassermann reaction of blood and spinal fluid and by physical improvement, and nearly all by mental improvement, usually preceded by temporary loss of weight and occasionally by transitory mental exacerbations. Reports of four cases are given as examples. Treatment, the details of which are described, consisted in four courses of neo-arsphenamide given intravenously combined with mercury salicylate intramuscularly and sodium iodide by mouth, and with attention to diet and hygiene. Some paretics showed reductions in Wassermann, blood-count and globulin, but not in gold curve, nor has there, as yet, been a cure. General paralysis, however, is simulated by curable forms of neuro-syphilis. Syphilis may be a factor leading to loss of mental balance even without actual cerebral infection. A routine Wassermann test should be made on all inmates, and all serologically *or* clinically syphilitic should receive intensive treatment.

MARJORIE E. FRANKLIN.

---

*Training Aides for Mental Patients. (Arch. of Occupat. Ther., February, 1922.) Slagle, Eleanor C.*

Emphasis should be laid on the relation of directed activity to mental adjustment and social rehabilitation. There are three groups to be dealt with : (a) Patients likely to remain permanently in hospital,