

no provision to exclude ex-convicts and other persons of defective character from entering into the business.

The dishonesty, moreover, might be as great with a single case as with a larger number, and the legal position appears therefore to be utterly illogical.

That anyone wishing to undertake the treatment of insane persons for payment should be called on to prove that he is fitted for the work by experience and character, and possesses the means for carrying out such treatment, would be right and proper ; only after such proof should a license be granted, and only to persons who could give such guarantees. As the law stands it is a gross interference with the liberty of the medical person to practise his profession in the way that is best for him and the community. The fact that this intolerable injustice, which was imposed with contumely and insult, is borne without protest is strong evidence that our profession is so wanting in *esprit de corps* and common national feeling, that it has tamely submitted to a wanton aggression on that supposed British palladium, the liberty of the subject.

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*The Pathological Laboratory and the London County Council.*

The pathological laboratory of the London County Council has done so much good work, and is capable of doing so much more, that any suggestion which may limit its usefulness demands earnest consideration.

A contemporary has recently suggested that the laboratory should be moved to London, in order that there should be scores of workers where there are now only a few. It may be conceded that a research laboratory in London might be a most desirable thing in itself, and we should be pleased to see it established, in addition to the Claybury Laboratory for morbid anatomical research in connection with clinical observation.

The experience of the laboratory of the Scottish asylums in Edinburgh points to the desirability of close connexion with a large asylum. This laboratory was first established in Edinburgh near the medical schools and quite away from any asylum, but it soon became evident that this was a mistake, and it was moved close to the Morningside Asylum, which is accessible

by tramway from Edinburgh. This arrangement has been found much more satisfactory.

The divorce of "pathological" inquiry from clinical observation is a mistake. "Pathology" thus divorced falls nearly to the level of guesswork. A careful examination of the refuse heap of a city would probably yield more information on the customs of its inhabitants than a "pathological" examination alone would give of the process of a disease.

The necessity for the close co-operation of the clinician and pathologist makes it a matter for regret that a medical correspondent of the *Times* should have apparently attempted to separate the clinical from the pathological workers at Claybury, by taxing the former with a want of interest and activity. This charge was very promptly refuted by Dr. Robert Jones, who pointed out that the clinical workers, being fully engaged and occupied during the day in their routine work, could only engage in pathological work in the evening—their only time of rest from duty—when the laboratory was closed.

The combination of clinical and pathological work on the Continent is provided for on a much more liberal scale by the great strength of the medical staff. For example, in Kraepelin's new clinic, of a few hundred beds, no less than fourteen physicians are employed. A similarly officered institution in Great Britain may be expected coincidentally with the occurrence of the Greek Kalends.

The usefulness of the laboratory, we venture to suggest, might be greatly extended, without removal to London, with the consequent clinical divorce, in several ways—firstly, as was suggested, by giving the Claybury staff opportunities of evening work; secondly, by the County Council encouraging two or three members of the staff of the other asylums to work at Claybury for various periods, according to the recommendation of the director of the laboratory; and thirdly, by assisting a certain number of the zealous workers whom our contemporary describes as existing in London, by means of railway passes to Claybury, also for periods to be decided by Dr. Mott.

The additional cost would not be very great, and would probably not bear a larger proportion to the whole cost of the laboratory ship than the traditional pennyworth of gas product.