"To me it is a sign that more care should be exercised in the choice of boys for higher education. Many boys, who would do perfectly well at a trade are pushed to make bad clerks instead of useful mechanics. Many of these boys break down as a result of the attempt to make them what they were never intended to be."

The recovery-rate for the year was 37·7, but Dr. Samuels explains that the term includes cases of temporary cessation of symptoms.

As regards ætiology, syphilis, alcohol, influenza and malaria occupy prominent places.

"In addition to syphilis and alcohol appearing as primary causes, one notices that we have on 98 occasions cardio-vascular degeneration appearing as a secondary cause. A large number of these cases of cardio-vascular degeneration might be laid at the door of either syphilis or alcohol, so one sees how important these two are as causes of the mental ill-health of the Federated Malay States.

"Syphilis has always, at least in our time, been here, but alcohol is more or less a recent cause and its appearance may be dated from the day that attempts to cut off opium were made.

"I wonder, have the people who cry out against opium thought of the alternative, and of the crime attributable to alcohol which opium never gives rise to.

"Of the less common causes adolescence and mental strain taken together make a total of nearly 70, and one wonders how many of these are due to education above the boys' capacity; I fear a great many."

Dr. Samuels complains, and apparently with good reason, of the burden of administration caused by the continual flooding of the hospital by criminal cases, and pleads for a separate institution similar to Broadmoor for Malaya.

NEW ZEALAND.

In this dominion, a country (without its accompanying islands) rather more than twice the size of England, with a population (1926) of 1,344,348, there are seven mental hospitals, at respectively, Auckland, Tokanui, Porirua, Christchurch, Nelson, Seacliff and Hokitika, and since overcrowding is present in an acute form in all the existing mental hospitals, and the estimated annual increase is approximately 200, a new hospital for Auckland is in process of development at Puhitahi.

The report is that of the "Minister in Charge of the Department for the Care of Mental Defectives," on the mental hospitals of the dominion for the year 1927.

At the Auckland Mental Hospital the weekly average number under care was 1105, and the admissions for the year were 227, 47 being voluntary boarders, of whom there were 96 in residence. The recovery-rate for the year was approximately 29%.

There were 337 (M., 213; F., 124) patients in the Tokanui Mental Hospital at the commencement of the year 1927, 61 were admitted, and the year ended with 345 (M., 221; F., 124) patients.

At the Porirua Mental Hospital there were 1,408 patients at the end of the year, an increase of 80 since January 1, the total admissions for the year were 291 (M., 158; F., 133) and of these 37 were voluntary boarders. At this hospital a separate admission villa, "Bella Vista," is established, and to this all new admissions are received with the exception of those obviously of hopeless prognosis.

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A clinic at Wellington Hospital is also associated with this hospital, which, apart from being a treatment centre for certain forms of psycho-neurosis, is also a channel for the admission of voluntary patients of suitable type.

The average number of patients resident at the Nelson Mental Hospital during the year 1927 was 398; there were 57 admissions and 15 voluntary boarders were under treatment during the year. Imbecile boys from all parts of the dominion are sent to this institution, the overcrowding is great, and Dr. Jeffreys appeals for new villas to be erected.

At the Hokitika Mental Hospital there were 226 patients on the register at the beginning of the year, and 216 at the end (M., 152; F., 64), and 14 patients were admitted.

The Christchurch Mental Hospital is fortunate in having attached to it a neuropathic hospital at Hornby, and for clinical and pathological examinations, the valuable assistance of Prof. Hercus of the Otago Medical School (Dunedin). There were 886 patients on the register at the end of the year as against 870 at the beginning, and the admissions for the year were 166 (M., 89; F., 77).

The average weekly number of patients at Seacliff Mental Hospital was, during the year, 1138 (M., 627; F., 511), admissions 164 (M., 93; F., 71), and of these 20 were voluntary boarders; a separate neuropathic hospital is now being built at Puketeraki, near by, which will be worked in association with this institution, in addition to the already existing admission cottage.

In all the mental hospitals in New Zealand, taken together, syphilis was regarded as a causative factor in 7·7% of cases amongst males, and 0·72% amongst females; alcohol was a causative factor in 7·53% of males and 2·41% of females.

The total voluntary admissions, male and female, first and not-first admissions, have steadily increased from 23 in 1912 to 197 in 1927.

It is noticeable that in a recent bill amending the existing Mental Defectives Act, which has now passed the New Zealand House of Representatives, clauses which had been introduced prohibiting the marriage, and authorizing the sterilization of persons registered under this Act, were excluded.

SYRIA.

Lebanon Hospital.—The total extent of Syria under the French mandate, is an area rather larger than that of England and Wales and this comparatively small hospital of 140 beds is not only the only one provided for mental patients in this large area, but also reaches out its helping hand to such widely distant places as Armenia and Anatolia, Baghdad and Alexandria. There were on the hospital registers on March 31, 1928, 136 patients (M., 74; F., 62), an increase of two in the year; 163 cases were admitted during the year, a remarkably large number for a hospital of this size.

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