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Lunacy Legislation in Cape Colony.

Dr. Duncan Greenlees, in a paper read before the South African Medical Congress, deals with the legislative needs of this colony.

The delays and difficulties of obtaining early treatment are forcibly delineated. To obtain the aid of a judicial authority at the Cape often necessitates a long cart journey, and the obtaining an order of admission to an asylum under the circumstances he describes must be a work of time and energy. It is in fact the "reductio ad absurdum" of the legal interference with the liberty of medical treatment.

Dr. Greenlees urges the adoption into the Colonial Law of the "Urgency Order" and of the Scotch provision for the temporary treatment of "incipient and non-confirmed cases."

Many other defects are pointed out, *e.g.*, that a magistrate may issue an order for detention on "medical certificates of ancient date;" and if a person on admission is not insane, the asylum physician has no power to discharge him, but must wait the lapse of the order or get an order of discharge from a judge!

Dr. Greenlees has so closely preserved his connection with the Association, that we wish him every success in reforming the legislative difficulties to which he draws attention.

Increase of Members.

The very considerable increase of members during the past year, recorded in the Council's report, is a most satisfactory testimony to the progressing activity of the Association and of its growing value to those engaged in the specialty.

The Divisional Meetings have without doubt had much to do with this result, and it is to be hoped that a still further advance in our numbers will accrue in the coming year. There are still a considerable number of possible members in the specialty who have not yet joined our ranks.
