originally purposed, but it is to be hoped that it has shown some of the advantages gained from the hospital methods used, such as:

The benefits from individual attention.

The attainment of a nearer approach to a physiological standard of health.

The preservation of alertness of mentation.

That the graver manifestations of the disease itself are lessened.

That mental recovery, where possible, is promoted and facilitated.

Lastly, although much has been done to improve the situation for the unfortunate sufferer from epilepsy by the colony system, much more should be, and, it is to be hoped, will be done. It is the firm conviction of the writer, that, when more is done, most good will be gained from the full incorporation of the principles of hospital treatment with the best principles of the colony system.

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Some Observations on Insanity in Jews.[1]

By HARVEY BAIRD, M.D., Assistant Medical Officer, Colney Hatch Asylum.

THE great majority of the insane Jews chargeable to the various London unions are cared for in this asylum. Special arrangements are made in order that they may observe the customs and rites which their religion demands of them. A Jewish Rabbi visits them and holds religious services. A Jewish interpretress is on duty daily. There is a Jewish kitchen, where the food is prepared in the manner they are

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accustomed to. At certain periods of the year they fast as they would do in their own homes.

The number of Jewish patients shows a yearly increase, especially marked in the last few years. In 1903 there were 282 Jews here, while last year the number was 421, an increase of 50 *per cent.* At this rate in twenty-five years this asylum will contain only Jewish patients.

This raises the question as to whether the Jewish Board of Guardians and London County Council might not consider the erection of an asylum for Jews only. It is possible, however, that the deportation of recent arrivals in this country under the Aliens Act may diminish the rate of increase.

One has, consequently, a good opportunity to make a comparative study of their insanity and that of their non-Jewish fellow-inmates. All the cases admitted here from January 1st, 1903, to December 31st, 1907, inclusive, have been analysed, and several striking differences will be observed.

The average admission age is much below that of the non-Jew. In the five-yearly period previously mentioned, 288 male and 299 female Jews were admitted; 35·3 and 34·9 were their average ages. In all the London asylums 41·6 and 41·8 were the average admission ages for males and females respectively in 1906. Thus it will be noted that the London Jew becomes insane some six and a half years earlier than his fellow citizens. The cause of this may be due to their more neurotic temperament, to greater stress and strain, to earlier marriage, with possibly sexual excess, and to the peculiar liability of the females to puerperal and allied insanities.

The histories of all the admissions here during the quinquennial period chosen have been examined with a view to giving some statistics as regards causation, and here again some striking differences are observed. I may remark that the histories have been taken with great care, a large proportion of them by Dr. Beadles, late senior medical officer here. Although believing that stress and strain may be a factor of some importance in the causation of insanity, I have not in comparing the two classes taken into consideration those cases in which such causes are alone given, nor have I done so where such conditions as fright, accident, masturbation, love affair, etc., are mentioned. A considerable number of cases have no history, and this is especially so in regard to the Jews, many of them

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having no relatives in this country. Of the 2714 cases, 586 had no history. Excluding these, of the remainder 24·5 and 34 *per cent.* of the male and female Jews show heredity, and 33·4 and 36·8 of the non-Jews. It is questionable, however, if heredity plays a less important part in the Jew, as information on such a subject is probably more often concealed, and a husband or wife is much more likely in the case of the Jew to know little or nothing of the patient's family. Probably heredity is about equally common in both classes.

A history of alcoholic excess, as would be expected, is much less common in the Jews. It was obtained in only 12·7 *per cent.* of the men and 2·6 *per cent.* of the women, as compared with 33·8 and 14·2 *per cent.* respectively in the other patients. In both sections, however, alcohol alone was rarely a cause, and I think it must be admitted that the majority of those who drink to excess are of a somewhat defective mental standard before they take to drink. At the same time the figures undoubtedly show that inebriety is a rare vice in the Jewish community.

A history of syphilitic infection was so rarely obtained in females as to be valueless for comparative purposes. In the men it was practically equally frequent in both sections, *viz.*, 5·5 and 5·7 *per cent.*

In regard to insanity associated with the puerperium, pregnancy, and lactation, we find a remarkable disparity. This is the difference that strikes one most forcibly when examining these cases. For the Jews the figures are 12·1 *per cent.* puerperal, 3·9 *per cent.* pregnancy, and 3 *per cent.* lactation; for non-Jews 5·4 *per cent.* ·5 *per cent.*, and 2·1 *per cent.*, or putting all together 19 and 8 *per cent.* respectively. Dr. Beadles in 1900 found the figures to be 15 and 6·18 respectively.

The causes of this increase in insanity associated with child-bearing may be several. The Jews usually marry earlier, about twenty-four and twenty-two I am told are the usual ages. Their fecundity is great, about five to eight being the usual family. They are probably more moral and domesticated, but after marriage sexual excess is probably common. Inter-marriage is more frequently to be expected than in the non-Jew. The Jewess being of a more neurotic temperament, and becoming pregnant at an age when neuroses are likely to be prominent, possibly also living in insanitary surroundings, and working at

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various trades during her pregnancy in many cases, it is not to be wondered at that the strain of such an occurrence is too much for her mental equilibrium.

General paralysis has been regarded as a disease to which Jews are specially liable. Thus Beadles, in "The Insane Jew," *Journal of Mental Science*, October, 1900, states that he found 21 *per cent.* of all male Jew admissions were paralytics, as compared with 13 *per cent.* for pauper admissions in all county and borough asylums. I have, however, found a considerable decrease in the frequency of general paralysis in the Jew admissions. Indeed, there is a larger proportion in the non-Jew admissions; 31 Jew and 147 non-Jew paralytics were admitted, *i.e.*, 10·8 and 14·2 *per cent.* of the total admissions. In regard to causation, heredity, syphilis, and alcoholic excess were especially inquired into. The figures are 22·5, 22·5, and 16·1 *per cent.* for Jews, and for non-Jews 27·9, 15·6, and 32·7 *per cent.* respectively. Again, alcohol was usually associated with some other cause.

Regarding the symptomatology of the cases, speaking generally the alien insane Jew is a troublesome case. The proportion of Jews in the better wards in this asylum is small. Thus of the Jew cases at present on the female side of this asylum, 162 are in wards the patients of which are not regarded as fit to take meals in the dining-hall, and only 61 in such wards. The proportion in the other patients is 552 to 505.

This shows a marked difference; in the one case the numbers are nearly similar, in the other between twice and thrice as many.

The proportion of workers is small, 25 *per cent.*

The relatives and friends exhibit an extraordinary pertinacity in their endeavours to get the patients discharged. Consequently a large number are sent home as relieved. But as regards recovery, according to the statistics of the last five years, the outlook is considerably less favourable in the Jew. This is surprising, considering the high percentage of puerperal insanity. Thus only 22·2 *per cent.* of the male Jews admitted recovered, and 30·8 of the females, or excluding transfers 25·8 and 34·2 *per cent.* respectively. Since the end of 1907 a small number more have recovered, giving a slight increase. In 1906 the percentages of recoveries on admissions for all London Asylums were 31·22 and 36·06. In regard to the Jews, my

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figures are less favourable than those of Dr. Beadles, who gave 26·1 for males and 42 *per cent.* for females.

Referring next to bodily diseases, my general impression before investigating the subject was that the insane Jew was usually of low vitality, especially prone to tuberculosis, etc.

The statistics of this asylum, however, show that there is practically no difference in regard to phthisis and dysentery in the Jew and non-Jew; 19 *per cent.* of the tubercular cases were Jews, the same percentage as the average number of Jews resident bore to the non-Jews; 20 *per cent.* of the dysentery cases were Jews.

As regards epilepsy, there is practically the same proportion of cases amongst the Jews as amongst the non-Jews.

Summarising, the following facts may be stated:

(1) The insane London Jewish population is doubling itself every ten years.

(2) The average admission age of the Jew is six and a half years less than that of the non-Jew.

(3) Alcoholic excess is three times as frequently an assigned cause in the non-Jew as in the Jew.

(4) Insanity associated with child-bearing is relatively more than twice as common in Jewesses.

(5) General paralysis is rather less common.

(6) The foreign Jewish inmate is relatively more troublesome.

(7) The prognosis of the cases admitted is not so good in the Jew.

(1) A paper read at the Spring Meeting of the South-Eastern Division.

The Boarding Out of the Insane in Private Dwellings.

By R. Cunyngham Brown, M.D.

Writing in the *Nineteenth Century* of 1889, in an article entitled, "Lunatics as Patients, not Prisoners," Sir John Batty Tuke drew attention to the steadily increasing incubus of pauper lunacy, and raised the whole question of lunacy administration in England and Wales. In this paper he asked

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