Inquiry into the Irish Workhouse System.

Mr. M'Cartan asked the Irish Secretary whether he would state if it was his intention to appoint a departmental or other Committee to inquire into the Irish workhouse system; and, if so, whether this inquiry would extend to the treatment of pauper lunatics in workhouses, and their admission to workhouses from properly equipped asylums; and whether he would give the names of the gentlemen who were to constitute this Committee.—Mr. G. Balfour: In the event of the passage of the Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill, inquiry would have to be held into the subject of the best means of grouping workhouses with reference to amalgamation, but I do not think it would be necessary to appoint a departmental Committee to inquire into the whole system of workhouse administration or to extend it to the treatment of the insane in workhouses or asylums.—Mr. A. O'Connor asked whether the inquiry would include classification.—Mr. G. Balfour said he did not think it would touch that point. He thought they had sufficient information in regard to it already.—Mr. Swift MacNeill: Will the inquiry cover the question of the consolidation of workhouses?—Mr. G. Balfour My idea would be that the Committee or Commission should inquire as to what unions it would be best to group together.

Tradesmen as Attendants in Irish Lunatic Asylums.

In reply to Mr. Engledew, Mr. G. Balfour said that the Inspectors had from time to time drawn the attention of the Boards of Governors to the great importance of adding tradesmen attendants to the asylum staffs with a view to increasing the employment of the patients. At present, out of 722 attendants employed in the various asylums of Ireland 176 were tradesmen.

The Dismissed Asylum Attendants.

Mr. Field asked the Chief Secretary whether he was aware that the Board of Governors of Richmond Asylum on the 6th May dismissed James Duffy and Frederick Brunton because they refused to give up membership of a trades' union which had been established in connection with their employment, and registered on the 20th April; and whether he will have an inquiry instituted into this matter.—The Chief Secretary: The fact is as stated in the first paragraph. The appointment and dismissal of asylum attendants devolve by law upon the Board of Governors alone, and I see no sufficient reason for instituting an inquiry into the matter as suggested.

The Government Grant for Lunatics.

Mr. Ashton asked the President of the Local Government Board whether he had caused inquiry to be made into the question of extending the 4s. grant per week for lunatics, now given to lunatic asylums, to workhouses; and, if so, whether he was prepared to recommend that that grant should be paid for lunatics in workhouses who had been treated in asylums and discharged to workhouses as incurable.—Mr. Chaplin: I have received a large number of communications on this subject, and have given careful consideration to it. Nothing, however, could be done in the matter without an alteration in the law; and at present I am not prepared to propose legislation with regard to it.

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES.

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act.

Dr. Murray Lindsay draws our attention to this Act, which, he remarks, should be useful to us and may help forward our cause, for it contains some principles we are advocating and should like to see applied to the asylum service, viz.:—

1.—Compulsory superannuation. Sec. 2.
2.—Compulsory retirement. Sec. 2, paragraph 3.
3.—Transferred service to reckon towards pension. Sec. 4.

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4.—Power to add a number of years not exceeding ten in certain cases for peculiar professional qualifications or special circumstances. Sec. 5.

5.—Power to grant gratuities in certain cases. Sec. 8.

6.—Power of appeal to Local Government Board to decide questions as to the right to or the amount of superannuation allowance. Sec. 18.

7.—"Emoluments," including the money value of any apartments, rations, or other allowances, to be reckoned in calculating pension. This is compulsory as part of the superannuation and not permissive or discretionary.

The scale is one-sixtieth for every year of service, the maximum of two-thirds not being attainable till after forty years' service; and there is an annual contribution to the Pension Fund of 2, 2½, and 3 per cent. according to the length of service. Sec. 13.

From the asylum point of view of course this could not be considered liberal or satisfactory, as asylum officials devote their *whole time* to the service; but from the Poor Law Officers' point of view, it may be considered fairly good as ensuring a *certainty*, for the Act applies to Poor Law Officers who are not required to and who do not devote their whole time to Poor Law service (*e.g.* Medical Officers), and whose work is much less arduous and risky than the Asylum service.

NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR

EXAMINATION FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.

The following candidates were successful at the examination held on the 16th July, 1896:—

ENGLAND.

Examined at Bethlem Hospital, London.—Edward John Cross, Anthony Alexander Martin.

SCOTLAND.

Examined at the Royal Asylum, Edinburgh.—John Clarke Nixon, William Hector Mackenzie, Sreenagula Mallannah, Ian Lamont MacInnes, Harold Sherman Ballantyne.

Examined at the Royal Asylum, Aberdeen.—William Ainslie, Robert H. Clarke, William Deane Manson Donald, William Marshall Philip, Thomas Snowball, George Felix Thompson.

The following were the written questions:—

1.—Give the predisposing causes, symptoms, prognosis and treatment of Puerperal Mania. 2.—Describe briefly Primary Dementia, giving its course and prognosis. How does it resemble and differ from Melancholia with Stupor, and from Secondary Dementia? 3.—In what cases are hallucinations of sight and hearing most frequently met with? To what extent would they influence your treatment and prognosis of a case, and what precautions would you deem necessary in such cases? 4.—An act of outrage has been committed by a man known to have suffered from Epileptic "Fits": what circumstances would go to prove that the perpetrator was an irresponsible agent? 5.—Describe a case of Acute Delirious Mania, and state how you would distinguish it from a case of delirium tremens. 6.—State your views as to the causes of change in pupils observed in General Paralysis of the Insane.

The next examination will be held in December, 1896. Due notice of the date will be given in the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal*.

WINNER OF THE GASKELL PRIZE

William Richard Dawson, M.D.

The following were the written questions:—

1.—Give in detail the pathological changes found microscopically in the Cerebral Convolutions and Meninges in General Paralysis of the Insane. 2.—What are the mental symptoms which occur in Myxœdema? How do you explain them? What is the cerebral pathology of this disease? 3.—Define

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