largely aided by an accurate knowledge of the morbid physical conditions associated with it, and feeling that any step that tends to promote such knowledge must ultimately prove an important factor in the reduction of the burden of the lunacy charges of the country.—*Northern Whig*, March 17th, 1902.

ASYLUM ACCOMMODATION IN LANCASHIRE.

A meeting of the Lancashire Asylums Board was held at the County Hall, Preston, yesterday afternoon, Mr. Scott Barrett presiding over a large attendance of members. A deputation attended from the Lancashire unions with reference to asylum accommodation in the county.

Mr. G. Rooke, of Manchester, who was chairman of the Conference of Boards of Guardians held in Manchester in January, introduced the deputation, and said that twenty-four out of the thirty-one unions were there represented. At the Conference it was decided to ask the Asylums Board to receive a deputation from the guardians, not in any complaining or critical spirit, but simply to ask the Board to confer with them as to the best means that could be taken to prevent the difficulties under which the guardians of the county were placed, owing to the congested state of the asylums. The members of the deputation had themselves large establishments to administer, and could therefore well understand and appreciate the ability, consideration, and anxiety with which the Board's huge establishments were conducted throughout the county. At the same time they thought they might ask the Board to confer with them, seeing the difficulties they had been placed in had been so great in the past, so as to obviate as far as possible such a condition of things again occurring.

Mr. Leech, of Rochdale, who acted as secretary of the meeting, read the resolution passed at the Conference, which was as follows:—"That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable to appoint a deputation to wait upon the Lancashire Asylums Board for the purpose of urging upon the Board the absolute necessity of providing sufficient accommodation for pauper lunatics dangerous to themselves or others, or requiring curative treatment. The Conference also authorises the deputation to discuss with the Lancashire Asylums Board all questions arising out of the present insufficiency of such accommodation."

Mr. Humphreys (Prestwich) and Mr. Grimshaw (Chorlton) also addressed the Board.

The Chairman said the deputation would be aware that the Asylums Board were fully conversant with the wants of the county, and that they had been doing everything in their power in order to provide accommodation for the increase in lunacy. But they understood it was a thing which could not be done in a day, a week, a month, or in a year. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the 4*s.* grant, the effect had been to crowd the asylums which were built for acute cases, and therefore they had been obliged to spend these large sums of money to provide accommodation. He ventured to think that if the 4*s.* grant had never been made the asylums that day would have been large enough for the patients. Already 510 patients had been taken in at the Winwick Asylum, and in a short time they expected there would be 200 more, and there were only 231 vacancies in the asylum. It showed how rapidly lunacy was increasing. They had found, however, that different boards of guardians had sent a large number of patients to Winwick, and the class was of the very lowest type. They were nearly idiots, and, as he had said, they were not the sort of people that asylums were built for. (Hear, hear.) The Winwick Asylum was built for chronic cases, and if they were going to have it filled with imbeciles they were going to be in the same place as they were in before. (Hear, hear.) The Board thought the workhouses would have to provide for people of that class as paupers. They had that afternoon three sites before them, and he assured them it was a very difficult matter to select a site that would be suitable in every way for an asylum, seeing that it meant the spending of £300,000 or £400,000. On this asylum he was sure they would not wish the Board to hurry over the selection of a site. The deputation then retired.

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In accordance with notice of motion, Mr. J. Miles moved—"That in view of the pressing and urgent need of increased asylum accommodation, as emphasised by the recent Conference of Boards of Guardians, the report of the Sites Committee (appointed May, 1900) stating that they had reserved the three sites named below for further inquiry be forthwith considered, and that, in pursuance of the resolution passed on August 29th, 1901, directing two sites to be acquired, one at least, if approved, be forthwith selected and submitted to the Lunacy Commissioners for their sanction." The sites referred to were respectively at Chadswell, near Clitheroe; Longworth, near Bolton; and Shuttleworth, near Bury.

After some discussion an amendment to the effect that the previous resolution of the Committee be adhered to was carried by a large majority. Mr. Miles's resolution was therefore rejected.—*Manchester Guardian,* February 28th, 1902.

THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPTICS.

The Manchester and Chorlton Joint Scheme.

In view of the fact that the capacity of the Manchester and the Chorlton Union workhouses has been severely tried, and of the needs of epileptic patients, considerable interest attaches to the joint scheme of the two unions for the treatment of these sufferers. It appears that there are between six and seven hundred inmates of the imbecile wards of the workhouses. The joint committee of the Boards of Guardians for Manchester and Chorlton have decided to establish at Langho, near Blackburn, buildings for a "colony" (so called from the system, as distinct from the "barrack" system at present in force) for the accommodation of epileptics and imbeciles. The type of building which it has been decided to erect at Langho is similar to that adopted in the Poor Law cottage homes. It is thought that by this method better classification of the patients will be secured, whilst their surroundings will be of a more home-like character than can be attained in asylums. The homes, some detached and some semi-detached, will be built in different parts of the estate—which comprises 165 acres—and grouped for the respective classes after the fashion of villages. The buildings are to be so designed as to afford facilities for the extension of the accommodation for every class, but at the outset there will be accommodation for 370 imbeciles (in homes of about fifty or sixty), 100 adult epileptics classed as insane, 30 epileptic children, 150 sane epileptic adults, and 50 sane epileptic children, making a total of 700 patients, exclusive of sick and probationers. The villages or colonies may be 300 to 400 yards apart, and the homes in them from 50 to 150 feet apart. The homes will vary in size, and will accommodate from twenty-five to fifty or sixty patients. The buildings will include, beside the homes, a central administrative block containing the offices and apartments for the resident staff, also the general kitchen offices, stores, laundry offices, a committee room, and the superintendent's and clerk's offices and workshops. The cooked food from the kitchen will be distributed to the various homes, probably by motors furnished with arrangements for keeping the food warm. A receiving ward is to be built near the general hospital. The hospital will contain two general wards of twelve beds each for each sex, the remaining accommodation for each sex being comprised in separation wards for from two to four patients each, one of these separation rooms on each side being reserved for purposes of isolation. Residential accommodation for six nurses, a recreation or assembly room, and possibly a chapel, are also included in the plans. The resident staff will be provided with accommodation in the central administrative buildings. None of the staff, except the foster-mothers in the homes for sane epileptic children, will reside in the homes. The plans, however, provide for the accommodation for the other members of the staff as follows:—Steward and chief engineer in semi-detached cottages; an assistant engineer and ten male attendants in an independent block; two assistant medical officers, one matron, and an assistant matron, one cook and an assistant, laundry woman, superintendent nurse and assistant, forty female attendants, and twenty domestic servants. The equipment will be completed by the provision of stores, receiving-houses, coal stores,

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