the prisoner under observation ever since his arrest. Had been unable to detect any trace of insanity in him. He probably had an exaggerated idea of jealousy as to his wife, which might have been a delusion.

Cross-examined: His examination was of course confined to the prisoner's condition subsequent to the act. Prisoner had not been so anxious as was usual in a person in his position. Agreed with Dr. Bastian that it was possible he had a sudden attack of homicidal mania at the time.

Prisoner was sentenced to death. The Secretary of State subsequently ordered his examination by Dr. Savage and Mr. Brayne, of Broadmoor, and in the result the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

House of Commons.

Treatment of the Insane in Ireland.

Mr. M'Cartan asked the Irish Secretary whether his attention had been called to the proceedings at an inquest held in Belfast Workhouse into the death of an inmate named Eliza Jane Hanna, in which it appeared that the deceased had been a patient in Belfast Asylum; would he state when and under what statute she was transferred to Belfast Workhouse; whether she belonged to the Belfast Union, and, if not, under what authority did the guardians of the poor there admit her and keep her confined in Belfast Workhouse at the expense of the ratepayers of Belfast; whether Belfast Workhouse had ever been certified by the Inspectors of Lunatics or the Board of Control as a suitable and proper place for the reception of the insane; whether he was aware that the doctor of the workhouse swore at the inquiry that the patient was transferred without any consultation between the doctors of the two institutions, and that the recreation yard at the workhouse was so small and usually so noisy that it had been described by one of the inspectors as a pandemonium; and whether he would have full inquiry made into the matter.—Mr. G. Balfour: My attention has been drawn by the question to the proceedings at the inquest referred to in the first paragraph. The Clerk of the Union states that the woman was received into the workhouse in December, 1893, as a presumably destitute person in exchange for another person sent from the workhouse to the lunatic asylum. The woman did not belong to the Belfast Union. The reply to the fourth paragraph is in the negative. No such certificate is required. As to the fifth paragraph, no consultation is held regarding the condition of patients between the medical officers of the two institutions. I understand the medical officer of the workhouse stated at the inquest that he had heard that the Inspector of Lunatics had described the recreation yard in the manner mentioned, but I have not ascertained from the Inspector of Lunatics whether he has been correctly reported.

Treatment of Imbeciles in Ireland.

Mr. Engledew asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government had decided what steps they intend taking with regard to the recommendation made by the Inspectors of Lunatics and Commissioners of Control in the report dated Lunacy Offices, Dublin Castle, January 8th, 1896, as to the great want, existing in Ireland, of a national institution for the training and education of idiot and imbecile children, in order that these classes might be removed from what the report of the Commission describes as the neglect and poverty of their own homes and from the contaminating influence of association with the adult inmates of asylums and workhouses.—Mr. Gerald Balfour replied that he was aware of the views expressed by the Inspectors of lunatic asylums on the subject of providing State aid towards the establishment of an institution for the training and education of idiots and imbeciles in Ireland. The matter was one which had his sympathetic consideration, and he hoped to be able at some time to introduce legislation dealing with it.

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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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