An increase in the tea allowance to ⅛ oz., and the coffee allowance to ⅝ oz., as was formerly authorised.

That the butter ration be increased to 2 oz. per diem, and that butter purchased for storage should score 92, and for immediate use not lower than 90.

That the sugar ration be increased to 2½ oz., the cheese ration to ¾ oz. and the meat ration to 9½ oz., the additional half ounce over the present ration to cover a monthly ration of poultry for the entire institution.

That the milk ration be increased from 1 pint and 1 pint additional for 20 *per cent.* of the population, to 1 pint and 1 pint additional for 30 *per cent.* of the population, and that the fruit allowance be increased to 15 cents per week per person.

The committee also, by resolution, recommended that a liberal use of gingersnaps, assorted cookies, canned fruits, vegetables, breakfast foods, spices, condiments, etc., be allowed on the hospital tables, and that dried meats, tongue, etc., be included in the dietary.

It was also recommended by the committee that a better grade of fresh fish be provided for hospital consumption.—*State Hospital Quarterly*, August, 1923.

NEW YORK STATE HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES.

The following facts regarding the movement of employees in the State Mental Hospitals of New York and the proportion of staff to patients may be of interest to our readers. The return covers the period of three months ending June 30, 1923.

	No. on April 1.	Engaged.	Left.	Vacancies on June 30, 1923.
Medical officers	171	16	8	24
Ward employees	3839	1030	1045	294
Other employees	2771	320	334	164

No. of patients on June 30, 1923: 41,302; over-crowded by 7,281 patients.

Proportion to patients: 1 medical officer to 212·3; 1 ward employee to 10·0; 1 other employee to 5·8.—*Ibid.*

STERILISATION AND MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

With further reference to this subject, which was dealt with in our "Occasional Note" on *The Prophylaxis of Insanity and Mental Deficiency* (*vide* p. 358), we have since received a report on Sterilisation and Mental Deficiency issued by the Council of the Central Association for Mental Welfare, dated June of this year. We are glad to note that the Council, backed by a report of their Medical Committee, are in general agreement with the views we expressed in our "Occasional Note." This report is a valuable contribution to our knowledge on this subject and should be read by all our readers. Copies (price *2d.* each) can be obtained from the Offices of the Central Association at 24, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. 1.

OBITUARY.

William Crochley Sampson Clapham, M.D., F.R.C.P.Edin.

Dr. Crochley S. Clapham, who died suddenly at his residence, The Five Gables, Mayfield, Sussex, at the age of 75, on May 31, was a native of Wakefield, and a descendant of the great North Yorkshire family of de Clapham. Alluding to the custom of burial uncoffined and in the upright position, the poet writes of the ghastly sight presented by the vault:

"When cheek by cheek and hand in hand,
The Claphams and Mauleverers stand."

Educated at Cambridge and Guy's Hospital, he went out as a ship's surgeon and travelled extensively in China and the Far East, passing through many perilous adventures. He served as a surgeon in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, on the side which most Englishmen then regarded as the right one. He became Assistant Medical Officer in the Wakefield Asylum in the time of Sir James Crichton-Browne, and entered enthusiastically into the pathological work which has always distinguished that great institution. The subjects which chiefly interested him

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