private poor have never yet been adequately met by the country; and our only word of caution is that there should be, in our opinion, a limit to the rates of board charged in such institutions. They should be rigidly kept for the class indicated, and we venture to submit that the maximum payment should be a guinea a week.

THE NEW DERRY ASYLUM.

The *Lancet*, of 28th November, 1896, reports that it has been agreed to select a number of architects, and to ask them to send in plans for an asylum to contain 600 patients. It is calculated that this can be done for £170 per patient. Protests have been made in reference to this scheme on the ground that the expenditure will bear heavily upon the county, that the half empty workhouses should be utilised, that the people are not duly represented on the management. If the asylum be required for the treatment of curable cases we cannot conceive that any suggestion to utilise workhouses can be upheld.

BERI-BERI IN RICHMOND ASYLUM, DUBLIN.

We are glad to learn that the epidemic of beri-beri is now disappearing from the Richmond Asylum. There has been no fresh case on the male side since November, and but few amongst the female patients. It would appear that progress is being made with the works for the relief of over-crowding, and improvement of the sanitation.

ACCIDENTS.

Two fatal accidents have been reported, one in the Portsmouth Asylum and one in the Richmond Asylum. At the former one patient in a sudden fit of anger seized another and hurled him against a table; at the latter one patient fractured the skull of another with a grating. Both these incidents seem to have occurred at the hands of working patients, and illustrate the constant dangers to be encountered in dealing with the insane.

LATTER-DAY METHODS.

The Portsmouth Asylum is surely ruled by Gilbertian authorities. Some time ago Dr. Mumby was appointed Medical Superintendent on the plea that he had proved a most admirable and efficient medical officer of health. He, however, laboured under the disadvantage of having had no previous experience in lunacy. Later, we observed that the Chairman of the Committee advertised for an Assistant Medical Officer—one with "some previous experience in an asylum preferred." "Preferred" is good, but "necessary" would have been better from our standpoint, the best for the patients. *Fiat experimentum.* The world thinks, and we think, too, that as a general rule this topsy-turvy method of inexperienced Superintendent and experienced assistant is not to be desired.

Portsmouth, nevertheless, has so much of business aptitude as enables the Asylum Committee to fix the salaries for the medical officers they employ.

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Not so Middlesborough, which demands "What price Superintendents?" Has it then been impossible for the Middlesborough New Asylum Committee to ascertain the average payment in similar institutions? Or, do they hope to go one better than their neighbours in the pursuit of cheese-paring? Middlesborough has settled the vexed question. There is no such entity as the courage of one's opinions.

AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

The Council of the After-Care Association for poor persons discharged recovered from asylums for the insane appeal for funds to carry on their beneficent work. The Secretary, who will acknowledge subscriptions or donations made to him, is Mr. H. Thornhill Roxley, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster. We think it right to draw attention to this appeal, in the hope that our readers will aid as may be possible; for the action of the Association is not limited to any district and many deserving cases are in urgent need of assistance.

EPIDEMIC INSANITY.

A series of cases is reported from Skibbereen, Ireland. Two brothers and then three sisters became violently insane, and some of them were eventually sent to the Cork District Asylum. Such cases of *folie à deux* or communicated insanity are of special interest, and we hope to obtain a note upon these patients from Dr. Oscar Woods for the next issue of this Journal.

TABLE SHOWING PENSIONS GRANTED SINCE APRIL, 1892.

(In Continuation of Dr. Murray Lindsay's List, Journal of Mental Science Vol. 38, p 252.)

No.	Asylum.	Name.	Age on Retirement.	Length of Service.	Total Value of Office.	Pension Granted.	Proportion of Pension to Value of Office.	By whom and when Granted.
					£	£		
39.	Leicester ...	Dr. Higgins	53	18	800	300	About one-half	Co. Council, 1895
40.	Chester ...	Dr. Davidson	68	28	1000	700	Two-thirds	,, ,, ,,
41.	Portsmouth ...	Dr. Bland	48	17½	800	400	One-half	Bo. ,, 1896
42.	Hereford ...	Dr. Chapman	54	26	900	500	Over one-half	C . ,, ,,
43.	Suffolk ...	Dr. Eager	51	20¾	1000	350	One-third	,, ,, 1897
44.	Derby ...	Dr. Lindsay	63	25	1122	600	Over one-half	,, ,, ,,

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