The author goes into details, discusses the problem, and gives reasons for his recommendations; and concludes with a table showing the comparative cost of buildings and the maintenance rates of some of the main asylums.

Mr. Clifford Smith and the Council are jointly to be congratulated on the report, which testifies to the further awakening of the public interest in the mentally afflicted.

(1) Clifford Smith, C. W.: Report to Asylums Committee, London County Council, 1901.

Increase of Certified Lunacy.

The steady increase in the number of the certificated insane is evidenced by the rise in the number of first admissions to asylums, single care, etc. The report of the Commissioners in Lunacy just issued shows that the ratio of first admissions per 10,000 of the population has increased from 4·94 in 1898 to 5·31 in 1901. This, if not due to exceptional or temporary causes, is so serious that it would seem to demand attentive consideration.

The importance of the increase may not, of course, be so great as it at first appears; the greater part of the advance (from 5·05 to 5·31) having taken place in the last year (1901), and cannot therefore be regarded as a fixed increase until the statistics of the present year are available to confirm or negative it to some extent.

The increase in these years may be due in a considerable degree to the vigorous campaign of prosecutions for illegal treatment carried on during the last few years, which has had the result of making medical men and others taking charge of borderland cases much more careful to obtain certificates in any cases of doubt. Another possible element of increase is the cessation of the war, the excitement and interest which sustained many during its continuance leading to a breakdown when the stimuli ceased to act. Such an increase of insanity following on the cessation of war has been noted on more than one occasion.

The increase, if not attributable to some such temporary conditions, would lead to the conclusion that mental disease was really increasing rapidly, and would be an additional reason

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.48.203.763 Published online by Cambridge University Press

for the more speedy and extended adoption of the means for the special treatment of incipient disorder by hospitals and reception houses, which afford the best hope of making any marked progress in the prevention of insanity.

New (Ninth) Asylum for London.

"The cry is still they come," and speculation tries in vain to foresee the end of the procession.

In the new annual report of the London Asylums Committee just published it is stated that "as a result of the report [1] of the asylums' engineer (Mr. Clifford Smith) we shall in due course recommend that the ninth asylum be a modified form of the villa type. The preliminary plans, etc., in connection therewith will be prepared by the asylums' engineer, the Council having voted a sum of £1000 for this purpose, but until they are completed we are unable to give particulars as to accommodation or an estimate of the cost."

The issue of the plans will be awaited by the specialty with considerable interest, although the general arrangement of the new asylum may be imagined from the description of its being of the modified villa type, in the light of the engineer's very lucid report.

The estimate of cost will also be awaited with interest; it will be disappointing if an institution on such lines cannot be provided at a cost very greatly below that which has been attained in previous asylums.

[1] Elsewhere alluded to in this issue of the JOURNAL.

Insanity in Jerusalem.

The letter published in "Notes and News," from the Superintendent of the English Hospital in Jerusalem, draws attention to the want of provision for the enlightened treatment of the insane, as well as to an interesting instance of maltreatment.

The Christian (?) belief that insanity is due to possession by evil spirits, etc., led to much if not all of the barbarous maltreatment of the mentally afflicted throughout Christendom

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