the rates being burdened by their becoming chronic. Such a scheme would give the poor the same chance as the rich now had of securing recovery by the aid of the best possible advice. He was not inclined to speak in an apologetic way about the clinical teaching in mental diseases. It had enormously improved, and the asylums were not devoid of the milder cases from which to teach. At the same time he admitted that the Infirmary wards for such cases would afford a much larger field. He estimated that about forty beds would be necessary.

Dr. ALEXANDER BRUCE, of the Royal Infirmary, also supported the scheme, and said the removal of the stigma of having been in an asylum was one of the strongest arguments for the proposed change.

Dr. URQUHART said he believed the speakers had been preaching to the converted, for the members of the Society were apparently of one mind as to the establishment of a psychiatric clinique in the University of Edinburgh.

Dr. CARSWELL, Adviser in Lunacy to Glasgow Parish Council, described a scheme which that body has had in operation for several years, and is now about to put on a permanent footing for the treatment of insanity in its early stages. A mental block for fifty patients was being erected in connection with one of the poor-house hospitals, where the patients would be treated on hospital lines. Last year 212 patients were treated. Of these 28 were afterwards removed to asylums, 10 died, 167 were discharged recovered, and 7 remained under treatment at the end of the year. With better facilities and a larger staff he believed they would be able to pass through the wards about 300 patients per annum, or more than one third of the cases of mental disorder. The parish council hoped also to establish an outdoor clinique, and thereby anticipate the stage at which asylum treatment became necessary.

Dr. WILSON, Mavisbank, hoped that at least an out-patient department for mental cases would be established in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and if a special department could not be instituted, the rules of the Infirmary might be modified so as to admit such cases to the general wards.

Sir JOHN BATTY TUKE then formally moved—"That this meeting urges strongly on the managers of the Royal Infirmary to seriously consider the expediency of providing wards within or in the immediate vicinity of the institution for the treatment of incipient, transitory, and recent cases of insanity."

The MASTER OF POLWARTH seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Professor RANKIN mentioned that a committee of the Infirmary managers had been appointed to meet a deputation from the Society. The committee had considered the question of *locale*, and it seemed *primâ facie* as if it would be impossible to have mental wards within the walls of the Infirmary.

Sir JOHN SIBBALD thanked the members for the attention they had given the subject, and the meeting then adjourned.—*Scotsman*, February 20th, 1902.

## THE PATHOLOGICAL STUDY OF INSANITY.

### DOWN DISTRICT ASYLUM.

At a meeting of the committee of management of the Down District Asylum, held in the board room of the institution on Saturday, Dr. M. J. Nolan, Resident Medical Superintendent, having submitted the statement by the Special Committee (of which he is a member) of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland on the necessity for the establishment of a central laboratory in Ireland for the more particular investigation of the pathology of insanity, it was unanimously resolved—"That we, the committee of management of Down District Asylum, desire to express our warm approval of the proposed central laboratory for research in the pathology of insanity. We hereby state our readiness to affiliate this institution with such an undertaking when it assumes a practical shape, and to contribute towards its maintenance a sum of £25 per annum. We are of opinion that the project is deserving of general support, believing as we do that the prevention and the most effective treatment of mental disease must be

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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.

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## 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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