Perth district is £26, and this added to the contribution from the county makes the total annual cost of each lunatic £34 18s. If the position of Forfarshire, which constitutes the Forfar Lunacy District, be examined, it is found that the Royal Asylums of Dundee and Montrose have contracted to receive and maintain all pauper lunatics of the district, and that the rate charged at present is £28 12s. There has been no expenditure for the erection of a District Asylum, and that sum of £28 12s. per annum is the whole burden upon public funds for each pauper lunatic. Taking the whole of Scotland, it was found that there was an annual advantage of £3 11s. 9d. on account of each pauper lunatic belonging to the districts which were obliged to send them to Royal Asylums over those sent to District Asylums. It should be fully recognised that if the memorialists succeed in carrying out their views the result will be that the parochial rates would be saved an expenditure of £5 on each lunatic by laying on the county an assessment of £9 12s. 5d. for each lunatic. As to the second ground of complaint, Dr. Sibbald says that it is not the Parochial Boards, but the District Lunacy Boards, that are prevented from building new asylums or sending their patients to other asylums. Parochial Boards are equally obliged to send their pauper lunatics to the District Asylums of their Lunacy Districts with which the District Boards have entered into contracts. In the case of Royal Asylums, the rates are determined by negotiation between the asylums and the District Boards, and if the rate is regarded as excessive an appeal can be made to the General Board, which has power to settle the difference. In the case of District Asylums, the District Boards fix such a rate as will meet expenses. As to the third ground of complaint, Dr. Sibbald replies that in the seven Royal Asylums for 1889 the sum paid for pauper lunatics was considerably below the sum paidrfo private patients. As to the want of control on the part of Parochial Boards of the money expended on pauper lunatics, the memorandum states that that money, so far as the Parochial Board is concerned, is in the same position as the money collected for the school rate. Parochial Boards have no responsibility for the administration of the school rate, and they are just as free of responsibility in the management of asylums. An insuperable objection to giving representation of Parochial Boards on the governing bodies of asylums lies in the fact that such a representation would naturally lead to special advantages being given to Parochial Boards at the expense of private patients or to the detriment of other parts of the asylums. The manner in which the lunatics were provided for by Parochial Boards prior to 1857 required to be examined in order to obtain an idea of the evils which arose when two kinds of administration so different in their nature as the dealing with ordinary pauperism and the providing for the insane were associated under one authority. The state of matters then disclosed was universally admitted to be a disgrace to the country.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ASYLUM.

An important addition to this Asylum was opened on the 24th February. By the Lunacy Act of 1890, powers were given to the Committee of Visitors to build for the reception of private patients, so as, in some measure, to counteract the evil done by limiting the licenses for private asylums. The Committee of Garlands Asylum have taken advantage of this enactment, and have erected a separate house about a quarter of a mile from the entrance door of the public asylum. It has the appearance of an elegant, commodious, and comfortable villa. The public rooms occupy the ground floor, and there are two four-bedded dormitories and four separate bedrooms on the first floor. The intention is to receive a limited number of male patients of quiet and orderly class in this house, and to add another similar building for female patients in due course. Dr. Campbell is to be congratulated upon having kept the Cumberland County Asylum well to the front in this matter. The wants of the insane

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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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