THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE PSYCHICAL INSTITUTE, PARIS.

A number of distinguished men have made a proposal to found a Society for scientific experimental study of psychical phenomena. The objects of the Association are:—(1) The installation of laboratories equipped with suitable apparatus (biometers, magnetometers, spectroscopes, registering instruments, photographic apparatus, etc.); (2) the finding and payment of "subjects"; (3) the creation of a periodical which shall publish accounts of the experiments made in the laboratories, and their results, and the writings of collaborators interested in psychical studies. The General Secretary of the new Institute is Dr. Emile Legrand, 14, Rue d'Amsterdam, Paris.

Full information can be obtained from Mr. O. Murray, The Nook, Ormande Road, Branksome Park, Bournemouth.

We notice among the names of those who have already intimated their support, Dr. Pierre Janet, Professor Baldwin, Professor Lodge, Professor Stout, Professor Charles Richet, and many others.

THE ASYLUM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

We regret that, owing to the pressure on our space, we cannot enter into details as to the gratifying success which has attended the Asylum Workers' Association during the past year. We hope to give some account of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting in our next number.

INSANITY IN THE CITY OF LONDON.

There recently appeared in the lay press the statement that the City possessed "an unenviable notoriety so far as its statistics of lunacy are concerned." The returns made by the Medical Officer of Health for the City were referred to as then justifying the conclusion "that one in every twenty-five persons actually resident in the City, from a legal point of view, is at the present time an inmate of a workhouse, or an infirmary, or a lunatic asylum." As this statement may be misleading, we think it well to give the facts regarding the relative proportion of insane to total population in the City.

There are 350 insane patients belonging to the City Union and Corporation, and the resident population (night) of the City is about 35,000—thus giving the proportion as 1 in 100. The day population in the City is nearly a million.

HEREDITY AND INEBRIETY.

The Society for the Study of Inebriety has appointed a Committee of medical men to inquire into the relation of heredity to the production of inebriety. The President is Dr. Wynn Westcott, Coroner for North-East London, and the Committee includes the names of Mr. Victor Horsley, Professor Sims Woodhead, Drs. Archdall Reid, Heywood Smith, and Harry Campbell, with Dr. Thomas Morton as Secretary. Much progress has already been made with the investigation, and the medical profession is now asked to supply evidence on the following subject:—"The Committee are fully satisfied that drunken parents tend to have children who become drunkards; but they earnestly desire to obtain evidence bearing upon the question whether a parent who himself inherits no special tendency to inebriety can, as the result of mere intemperate habits, entail upon his children a potential inebriety." Communications will be gratefully received by the President or Secretary, and may be addressed to 396, Camden Road, London, N.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.46.195.827-c Published online by Cambridge University Press