Paris an immense asylum-town for 5000, or even 10,000, patients.

He concludes his excellent paper with the contention that the asylum should not be a field for experiments in economies, but, on the contrary, that the physician there, as elsewhere, should have a free hand in procuring reform and improvement.

The line of argument adopted by Dr. Toulouse, with which we were not unacquainted, is undoubtedly a sound one. Every thoughtful man will concede that the effort to disarm insanity is worth a vast amount of expenditure on the part of a nation, while an increasing recognition of insanity as a disease requiring the utmost benevolence *per se* tends to increase the readiness to spend money on its treatment. Still, there is a prevailing obsession that the prospect of real amelioration is so slight that money so spent is so much waste. Thus we start with much reluctance to make a determined attempt at amelioration, and what is done is done more by way of satisfying obvious requirements, due to increasing benevolence, than for the purpose of experimental scientific progress. As psychiatrists we may well ask why insanity is left behind when so much forward endeavour is made in general medicine.

It is part of the tragedy of the war, which has been so ruthlessly thrust upon us, that it has come just at a time when it was hoped that some serious consideration might be paid to our pleas for psychiatrical advance. It cannot be doubted that this and many other similar movements must be arrested during the period of national recuperation. But we feel confident that when wrong is subdued, and right prevails, a time of peaceful progress is in store for the nations of Europe. Until that time, however long, comes we may regard the Report of the Committee *re* Status of British Psychiatry as embodying views which will remain virile. Further, we may consider ourselves fortunate that this Report was finished and adopted just in time to escape the present disorganisation of the national life.

The War—Treatment of Alien Enemies in a Concentration Camp.

We have received from Professor L. Brauer, Medical Director of the Eppendorf Hospital, Hamburg, an open letter

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on the treatment of German Aliens at the Prisoners of War Camp, Newbury, also on the question of the war generally. It is signed by Professors Brauer, Dencke, Nocht, Rumpel, Simmonds, and Drs. Marben, Mann, and Œhrens.

The letter conveys nothing further than similar letters from German savants, published from time to time, have done, and there is nothing to be gained by its reproduction here.

Regarding Newbury Camp—now abolished—it is admitted that, at first, conditions were very crude, but the prisoners soon settled down and the happiest of relationships, considering the circumstances, were soon established.

We have had access, through the courtesy of the War Office, to the reports of the Commandant, Colonel Haines, and there is abundant testimony that the great majority of the prisoners were grateful for the considerate treatment they received, and have not hesitated both publicly and in private letters to express themselves so.

The majority of the charges made in the open letter are either untrue, exaggerated, or unfair. No allowance is made for the unpreparedness for the accommodation of large numbers of prisoners of war, and for the prevailing unfavourable weather, and we are satisfied that all was done that could be done to secure comfort under difficult and unexpected circumstances.

We congratulate Colonel Haines on his excellent management, of which there is such adequate testimony.

As regards the rest of the letter, we have complete confidence that when the time comes for the analytical and dispassionate consideration of all the circumstances that led up to the declaration of war, and the attitude and behaviour of the British people since, the signatories of the letter under review will have good reason to regret that they have allowed their better judgment and common-sense to be influenced by people whose implacable hatred of England is only equalled by their utter disregard for truth and right dealing, and whose noisy interference is rapidly driving a war waged in defence of principles, however irreconcilable, into a racial conflict which can only end in the extermination of one side or the other.

We are confident that we fight in a noble cause, and in our ability to succeed, and equally confident that our German colleagues, in the peace to come, will, after calm reflection, recognise that right was with us.

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