letter to her mother to-day saying that she was worse and should never get well; that she is a wicked mad person, and has driven her sister mad also. Complains that the asylum is too noisy for her, as Polly also did some days ago. The latter is very low-spirited: smiles in a tearful manner when addressed: says that she has reached the extreme and cannot go any further.

For the next two months both patients' mental condition remained unchanged.

January 1st, 1901.—The elder twin is again much addicted to evil practices: the younger is troublesome, restless, and resistive at times, but not so indecent in her habits.

25th.—Annie has been treated by drugs, cold baths, shower-baths, etc., but is still extremely disgusting in her habits and constantly trying to expose herself. There is no material change in her sister's condition.

At the present time patients' mental and bodily condition is quite unchanged, and I fear they both will become chronic cases of melancholia.

Note.—The accompanying photographs were kindly taken by Dr. Miller on the day after the patients' admission.

(1) *Journal of Mental Science*, vol. xxx, p. 262. (2) *Ibid.*, vol. xxxiv, p. 65. (3) *Annales Medico-Psychol.*, Sept.-Oct., 1900. (4) Tuke's *Dictionary of Psychological Medicine*, p. 1330.

Occasional Notes.

Inebriate Reformatories.

The first report of the Inspector of the Inebriate Reformatories under the Inebriates Act of 1898 is naturally of great interest.

The Act came into force on January 1st, 1899, but, although passed some months before, no certificate was granted to any reformatory until fully three months after the Act came into force, and it was still later in the year before justices realised that accommodation was available, and before any local authorities decided to aid the work.

Five certificates were, however, issued, three to one board of management (Brintry and Harfield), one to Duxhurst, and a fifth to St. Joseph's, Ashford. Eighty-eight inmates were committed to the reformatories in the year—a very moderate

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number considering the mass of cases needing such treatment.

The Brintry and Harfield reformatories were developed out of a charitable retreat previously existing (the Royal Victoria Home), no less than twenty-three counties and boroughs contributing a thousand pounds (two thousand in two instances), on the basis that seven beds should be available to each thousand pound contributor for twenty-five years, an additional three shillings and sixpence per head per week being paid for cases in residence.

The Duxhurst licence comprises two cottages, which have been engaged by the London County Council; whilst the St. Joseph's Retreat (seventy-five beds) is reserved for Roman Catholic women.

Other schemes for reformatories are in process of development. The London County Council has purchased a large estate near Horley (Surrey), and is adapting the existing buildings. A Lancashire Inebriates Board (formed under a special Act) has also been constituted, and several other counties and groups of counties are preparing to act. These signs of activity are very promising, and there can be little doubt that next year's report will record the establishment of several additional reformatories and a very considerable number of committals.

One habitual drunkard committed to the reformatory was found to be insane, and was transferred to an asylum; and it has been arranged that such cases shall in future be dealt with under the Criminal Lunatic Act, 1884 (47 & 48 Vict., cap. 64), the patients being sent to asylums as if from prison, and subsequently, should recovery ensue, being remitted to the reformatory to complete their sentences of detention.

The inspector describes the admissions of the present year as of "the very worst type." "A large proportion, if not actually lunatics, are distinctly borderland cases." Probably this type of case will become rarer when the Act has been in operation for a few years.

The Inebriate Act of 1898, however, although affording some hope of relief from the more degraded and repulsive forms of habitual drunkenness, falls very far short of reaching to the root of the matter. There are thousands of inebriates who inflict unimaginable misery on their relatives, are a danger to

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the community, a national curse by their evil example, and who die of alcoholic disease without coming under the cognizance of the law. One habitual inebriate who is legally convicted of drunkenness represents a score of others who are never convicted.

Habitual drunkards, indeed, die by the thousand every year. Their existence is known to the clergy, doctors, Poor Law authorities, and charitable associations, yea, even to the man in the street; and all these fully recognise the need of the interference of the law to arrest this ever-increasing horror. The legislative body alone in the whole country is ignorant or culpably negligent of this great national need. Frighted by the liberty-of-the-subject bogey—which is the most absurd of all our legal absurdities—the Houses of Parliament submit with callous indifference to the continuation of this most abominable evil.

The liberty of the subject is interfered with in scores of Acts of Parliament, from compulsory education downwards, and it would appear only to be invoked on behalf of evil-doers, such as persons engaged in the dissemination of syphilis, propagation of smallpox, or, like the drunkard, in spreading misery and poverty.

The Parliamentary conscience can only be reached by the prospect of loss of votes, and until rational philanthropists recognise this fact the legislature will continue to be controlled by the various interests, such as that of the brewers, or by the organised societies of enthusiastic emotionalists whose "sound and fury" appal the Parliamentary candidate.

The interest manifested in inebriety by the Upper House of Convocation, the Committee of Bishops, Conferences of Magistrates, the Charity Organisation Society, the Conference of Women Workers, and various other bodies within a very recent period, proves that a widespread and influential movement is on foot which only needs organisation to lead to practical results. With all this mountainous labour, however, it is disappointing that in the present session the only result has been to bring forth bills to extend the travel of the *bonâ fide* traveller to six miles, to make a black list of habitual drunkards in specified areas, to enhance the crime of drunkenness when in charge of a child, and to make habitual drunkenness equivalent to persistent cruelty, entitling wife or husband to separation and

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protection. This last provision is of great importance in ameliorating the results of inebriety, but there is practically no legislative effort in the direction of prevention.

The Treatment of Crime.

There is no doubt that there is a wonderful change for the better in the treatment of crime. Although we cannot yet say that rational and satisfactory methods prevail, we find that year by year more intelligence and more humanity is infused into prison administration. It is now recognised that primitive measures alone are not corrective, and that the effective reformation of criminals can only be attained by making our prisons true schools and moral hospitals. A few years ago the ideals of Elmira were besmirched with abuse. Irresponsible smartness was facile in obvious criticism. The opinions entertained by Mr. Brockway—that youthful criminals should be accurately examined in every physical and mental relation; that their health and useful occupation should be primary considerations; that indeterminate sentences and liberation on parole should be adopted,—were hastily pushed aside as mere Yankee notions to be met by a cheap sneer and at once relegated to obscurity. But there are many signs that a little leaven is working, for the Prison Commissioners now report in favour of modern ideas—they can, in fact, no longer remain impervious to the scientific knowledge of the age.

The Prisons Act of 1898 had only been in operation for a year when the satisfactory outcome of its beneficent provisions was manifest. The limitation of corporal punishment has not been followed by an increase of prison offences; the improvement in the dietary has not caused an increase of crimes; and we confidently expect that the effects of differential treatment, of associated labour, of remission of full time of sentence, will be progressively better than has been recorded in the first returns of a tentative year.

To us, whose labours are spent in asylum work, these moderate reforms are but matters of course. Differential treatment is a necessity in dealing with the insane. The evils of associated labour can only flourish where the staff is insufficient and inefficient. Liberation is dependent upon conduct. What demon

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