of the Consolidated Fund. Two good results would follow this change. 1st. The patron becoming also the paymaster, the principles of the British Constitution would be more strictly adhered to than at present. 2nd. In the case of a man whose service as a medical superintendent has been commenced in one district asylum and completed in another, there would be no difficulty about getting the first period reckoned for the purposes of the Superannuation Act. As the law stands at present all such previous service would count for nothing, the wording of the Act being—"Any officer whose whole time has been devoted to the service of *such* asylum."

We are sorry to find the Inspectors obliged to make the following remark:—

> We are much below what is noticeable in English hospitals for the insane with regard to means of recreation and indoor diversions—music, games, illustrated periodicals, and the like. Conversant from experience with the great advantages, in a professional point of view, derivable from such pastimes in the treatment of mental affections, our efforts shall always be directed to their future development.

The Inspectors, alluding to the great number—no less than 7,219—of insane persons "at large" in Ireland, draw attention to the probability of their transmitting to posterity the disease they labour under, and thus contributing to the perpetuation of one of the most terrible scourges of the human race.

If space permitted, we should be glad to quote extracts from the excellent remarks the Inspectors make on "Insanity in Criminals" and "Malingering."

But we must conclude by merely recommending a perusal of them to our readers, who will find in this and every other part of the report evidence of the care with which it has been prepared and of the breadth of view of its authors.

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2. *French Retrospect.*

By T. W. McDowall, M.D., Assistant Medical Officer, West Riding Asylum, Wakefield.

(*Annales Médico-Psychologiques September*, 1872, *to January*, 1873.)

Influence of the Events of 1870-71 *upon the Development of Mental Disease in France.*

In a very long communication, Dr. L. Lunier attempts to answer the questions; 1st: Do great political and social commotions determine the occurrence of a certain number of cases of insanity? 2nd: Do these tumults increase the number of lunatics? To obtain information for a satisfactory answer to these questions, he has not limited himself to Paris and the department of the Seine, but has made enquiry in all the Asylums of France.

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To make the results the more striking, Dr. Lunier has arranged the 89 French departments into four groups, according to their geographical position, and the events which occurred in them from 1st July, 1870, up to the end of 1871.

The first group contains the departments still occupied by the Germans, and those evacuated since 1st April, 1871.

In the second group are collected the nine departments which were occupied only towards the end of 1870, and were evacuated in March, 1871.

The third group includes the 11 departments bordering upon the invaded region.

In the fourth group are the 48 departments which only indirectly and at a distance experienced the influence of the events of 1870-71.

There are 14 asylums in the first group of departments. Into these, during the year preceding the war, from 1st July, 1869, to July, 1870, 2,202 patients were admitted; but the number fell to 1,533 in 1870-71. Of 809 men admitted during the second period, 146, that is 18·05 per cent., became insane in consequence of the war. The proportion among the women was 12·77 per cent.

During 1869-70, the admissions into the asylums situate in the second group of departments were 866; in the following year they fell to 783. Of the latter number 440 were men, and of these 21 per cent. had their mental derangement attributed to the events of the war. Among the women the per centage was 15·45.

In the third group, which includes Paris, no change occurred in the number of admissions. It must be remembered that for a considerable period Paris was in a state of siege, and for four-and-half months only patients from the city and outskirts passed through the Bureau d'Admission at St. Anne. Here the admissions were 2,982 from 1st July, 1869, to 1st July, 1870; but the number fell to 2,599 during the following year.

In the fourth group of departments, 48 in number, the admissions fell from 4,141, 1869-70, to 3,862 in the following year. In about nine per cent. of the male, and 5·33 per cent. of the female admissions the mental disease could be attributed to the influence of the war.

(As this paper is of extreme length and not yet finished, we delay any further epitome until M. Lunier completes his communication.)

Jaundice and Insanity.

Dr. Fabre concludes a paper on this subject by a few observations on the influence of intercurrent icterus on the mental symptoms in cases of insanity. He says:—

The reciprocal influence which the mental disease and the intercurrent affections may have exercised upon each other, will appear from a special examination of each of the observations.

In the first case the jaundice supervened in a lunatic already enfeebled, and consequently predisposed by a subacute attack of alco-

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