CORRIGENDUM

Journal, October 1991, **159,** 603. The authors of *Mental Health Care Delivery: Innovations, Impediments and Implementation* should be transposed.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Hospital and Dispensary Management

LUNATIC ASYLUMS, IRELAND: ANNUAL REPORT. The fortieth report shows that of the 16,251 patients mentally affected on January 1st last 11,488 were located in district asylums, 3,961 in workhouses, 621 in private asylums, 2 in gaols, and 179 in the Central Criminal Asylum. As contrasted with the number of the insane on January 1st, 1890, there has been an increase of 225. This summary does not include the number of insane in private dwellings, or wandering at large. Of the 11,488 under treatment in district asylums, 3,095 were admitted during the year. Of these, 2,451 were first admissions, while the remainder (644) had been under restraint previously. The discharged amounted to 1,849, of whom 1,255 had recovered, while 480 were relieved, and 114 not improved. The deaths were 936 in number, giving a percentage of 8.2, which is somewhat higher than the past few years, consumption being the disease which proved most fatal, accounting for 255 of the total deaths in district asylums, or a percentage of 27.2. The inspectors call attention to the few *post-mortem* examinations held by medical officers, and they state that with the exception of the Richmond Asylum they are hardly known. The importance of these investigations cannot be too strongly urged, tending as they do (1) to protect the insane, since by them any injuries inflicted during life may be discovered; (2) to safeguard the asylum staffs, preventing after-accusations of illtreatment being brought forward; and (3) to advance our knowledge of brain disease, and afford the means to the medical officers of asylums for the study of pathology. In reference to the physical causes of the mental diseases in the inmates of district asylums, 251 were attributed to intemperance in drink, 617 to hereditary influences, 155 to bodily diseases and 36 to sunstroke, out of a total of 2,535; while 560 were due to moral causes. The average cost per head on the total expenditure was £22 7s. 8d.

Reference

British Medical Journal, 29 August 1891, 502.

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