"I would again draw attention to the large number of female patients in the hospital—10 over the proper accommodation number—and to the request which I made last year for more female accommodation. The gift of a row of single rooms linked up to the American and Philadelphia Houses by means of a closed corridor, at a cost of £1,400, would be a very valuable addition indeed to the Hospital. The patients could then be more separated from one another, which would greatly facilitate their treatment and lead to their greater comfort, because the present overcrowding in the female wards leads to much irritability and strife. Such a state of affairs does not exist among the men, where the accommodation is sufficient."

Dementia præcox was the form of mental disease that preponderated amongst the admissions, and the toxic conditions produced by alcohol, morphia, cocaine or hashish were only responsible for 3 cases in the year.

This hospital is fully equipped with a laboratory and means of modern research, and is attached to the American University at Beirût, at which Prof. Watson Smith is the lecturer on psychological medicine.

"I have to report that the fifth-year medical students, who come here for further instruction in mental diseases from the American University of Beirût, continue to give us a great deal of valuable help in the Hospital. They are all very interested in their work, and they seem to appreciate what advantages they gain from the practice of the Hospital.

"The usual instruction on psychological medicine to the fourth-year class of medical students has been given during the past winter. I take great pleasure in teaching these students, and consider that their instruction is essentially an extension of the work of this Hospital. The Hospital has always been regarded as an object-lesson in Syria as to how the insane can be cared for, and such patients as these doctors will be called upon to treat in their future practice will doubtless benefit from the instruction which they have received here.

"The students in the classes of psychology and sociology also visit the Hospital annually. Doubtless the ideas and conclusions which their professors teach them to abstract from what they see during their visit will all help to intensify that influence upon public opinion, with regard to the proper hospital treatment of the mentally afflicted, which this Hospital has been exerting during the past thirty years."

Although some of the patients are paid for by relatives and others by a grant from the French Government, the Hospital is largely maintained by voluntary contributions from the British Isles, European countries and America. Dr. Watson Smith, in his report makes an urgent appeal for further monetary assistance, in order to carry out extensions to meet the increasing demand on accommodation, and with good reason, for in the words of the Chairman of the London Committee (Dr. E. W. G. Masterman):

"The Hospital is a piece of 'practical idealism,' an attempt to cure and relieve those who are 'afflicted and distressed in mind.' And it has this unique appeal about it—that it stands in a land where we are told that the Great Physician Himself went about and healed 'all that were sick, holden with divers diseases and torments, possessed with deveils, and epileptic, and palsied.'"

STATE OF NEW YORK.

In the Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the State Hospital Commission dealing with the year ending June, 1926, it is shown that at the beginning of the year there were on the registers 43,601

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patients with mental disease in the civil State hospitals, 1,556 in criminal hospitals, and 1,367 in private licensed institutions (committed cases only.) There were admitted during the year 10,915 to the civil hospitals, 191 to the criminal hospitals and 374 to the private licensed institutions; at the end of the year there were on the registers 44,419 patients in civil State hospitals, 1,576 in criminal hospitals, and 1,519 in private licensed institutions, making a total of 47,514 mental patients in the State.

The recovery-rate for the year, based on first admissions, was 24·3% on all admissions (excluding transfers) 18·8%.

There is at present considerable over-crowding in all the State hospitals, amounting to over 50% in the case of Brooklyn. A new hospital is therefore to be established in Rockland County, new State psychiatric hospitals at Syracuse and New York City, and in addition a new Psychopathic Pavilion at Bellevue Hospital.

A considerable amount of valuable research has been done during the year, mostly published in the *State Hospital Quarterly*, now the *Psychiatric Quarterly*. Manhattan State Hospital records that of the 112 cases of general paralysis treated there by malaria infection during the past three years, 32% had complete remissions, 14% moderate remissions, 10% were improved, 25% unimproved, and 19% died; in 12 of these latter cases "one may perhaps be justified in concluding that possibly the malaria hastened the exit." Other cases of general paralysis were treated with tryparsamide, and the results show that this preparation "is far superior to any other arsenical yet introduced"—in 30% of the cases complete remission occurred; in 22% there was improvement; in 20% no improvement, and 28% of the patients died. The treatment of dementia præcox and encephalitis lethargica by malaria infection led to no encouraging result.

An interesting table of the nativity and parentage of the first admissions to the State hospitals appears to indicate that the effect of the new immigration laws is beginning to be seen in decreased foreign-born admissions.

In a table showing the first admissions due to alcoholic psychoses from 1909 to 1926, it is clearly shown that a steady fall in this class of case had been taking place from 1909 to 1920, with the single exception of the year 1917, in which there was a considerable increase which is generally considered (*v.* Pollock—*Prohibition and Alcoholic Mental Disease*, 1924) to be associated with the entrance of the United States into the Great War. The lowest admission-rate for alcoholic psychoses occurred in 1920 (the first year of prohibition) and since then, there has been a steady rise, chiefly in male cases.

It would appear, from an examination of the racial distribution of the principal psychoses, that alcoholic cases tend to be more prevalent among the Irish and Slavonic population, general paralysis among the African and Italian, and dementia præcox among the Hebrew and Slavonic races.

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