In accordance with notice of motion, Mr. J. Miles moved—"That in view of the pressing and urgent need of increased asylum accommodation, as emphasised by the recent Conference of Boards of Guardians, the report of the Sites Committee (appointed May, 1900) stating that they had reserved the three sites named below for further inquiry be forthwith considered, and that, in pursuance of the resolution passed on August 29th, 1901, directing two sites to be acquired, one at least, if approved, be forthwith selected and submitted to the Lunacy Commissioners for their sanction." The sites referred to were respectively at Chadswell, near Clitheroe; Longworth, near Bolton; and Shuttleworth, near Bury.

After some discussion an amendment to the effect that the previous resolution of the Committee be adhered to was carried by a large majority. Mr. Miles's resolution was therefore rejected.—*Manchester Guardian,* February 28th, 1902.

THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPTICS.

The Manchester and Chorlton Joint Scheme.

In view of the fact that the capacity of the Manchester and the Chorlton Union workhouses has been severely tried, and of the needs of epileptic patients, considerable interest attaches to the joint scheme of the two unions for the treatment of these sufferers. It appears that there are between six and seven hundred inmates of the imbecile wards of the workhouses. The joint committee of the Boards of Guardians for Manchester and Chorlton have decided to establish at Langho, near Blackburn, buildings for a "colony" (so called from the system, as distinct from the "barrack" system at present in force) for the accommodation of epileptics and imbeciles. The type of building which it has been decided to erect at Langho is similar to that adopted in the Poor Law cottage homes. It is thought that by this method better classification of the patients will be secured, whilst their surroundings will be of a more home-like character than can be attained in asylums. The homes, some detached and some semi-detached, will be built in different parts of the estate—which comprises 165 acres—and grouped for the respective classes after the fashion of villages. The buildings are to be so designed as to afford facilities for the extension of the accommodation for every class, but at the outset there will be accommodation for 370 imbeciles (in homes of about fifty or sixty), 100 adult epileptics classed as insane, 30 epileptic children, 150 sane epileptic adults, and 50 sane epileptic children, making a total of 700 patients, exclusive of sick and probationers. The villages or colonies may be 300 to 400 yards apart, and the homes in them from 50 to 150 feet apart. The homes will vary in size, and will accommodate from twenty-five to fifty or sixty patients. The buildings will include, beside the homes, a central administrative block containing the offices and apartments for the resident staff, also the general kitchen offices, stores, laundry offices, a committee room, and the superintendent's and clerk's offices and workshops. The cooked food from the kitchen will be distributed to the various homes, probably by motors furnished with arrangements for keeping the food warm. A receiving ward is to be built near the general hospital. The hospital will contain two general wards of twelve beds each for each sex, the remaining accommodation for each sex being comprised in separation wards for from two to four patients each, one of these separation rooms on each side being reserved for purposes of isolation. Residential accommodation for six nurses, a recreation or assembly room, and possibly a chapel, are also included in the plans. The resident staff will be provided with accommodation in the central administrative buildings. None of the staff, except the foster-mothers in the homes for sane epileptic children, will reside in the homes. The plans, however, provide for the accommodation for the other members of the staff as follows:—Steward and chief engineer in semi-detached cottages; an assistant engineer and ten male attendants in an independent block; two assistant medical officers, one matron, and an assistant matron, one cook and an assistant, laundry woman, superintendent nurse and assistant, forty female attendants, and twenty domestic servants. The equipment will be completed by the provision of stores, receiving-houses, coal stores,

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places for an electric light installation, a power-house, a railway siding, and storage tanks for at least a seven days' supply of water.—*Manchester Guardian*, January 7th, 1902.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following communication has been addressed to the Editors of the JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—It is a matter of general faith that all of us in this free country are the better for having our public doings or writings criticised from time to time. This no doubt is the *motif* of the review of the Commissioners' Blue Book which appeared in your last number. I have but little hope of attaining that success in improving the critical abilities of the gentleman who undertakes the annual scolding of those officials, which probably he expects from his own attentions to their Report, but with your permission I will do my best.

One thing is certain about criticism: if the manner is to be vigorous, the matter must be more than reasonably accurate. On the other hand, shakiness in inferences and conclusions is readily condoned by suavity.

I am forced, as probably others are forced, to the conclusion that your reviewer's manner is vigorous, too vigorous, and I am equally forced to the conclusion that some of his complaints and many of his recommendations cannot be justified. For instance, at the outset he is much exercised by the manner of taking the yearly census of the insane as on December 31st of each year. Every one knows that this process is not accurate; indeed, no lunacy calculations can be exactly accurate in the absence of certain definitions. But he proposes to take the average residence of the year as a more accurate basis. Has he considered what this entails? On the one hand, we must leave out of consideration all the lunatics in the metropolitan district asylums, those in workhouses or with their friends, or, on the other hand, we must have the average yearly residence of these classes. The first would be wrong on account of the perpetual *osmosis* going on between asylums and other institutions; the second would be unattainable in these days of fretful boards and variolous tramps. But really the increased accuracy of his method, as far as it could be adopted, would be immaterial, as will appear from the following figures:

Total enumerated insane, exclusive of paupers in workhouses or residing with relatives.

	Resident on December 31st.	Discrepancy.		Average number resident in the year.	Discrepancy.	
1900.	85,189		...			
	84,246	+292	...	83,954		
1899.	83,304		...	*83,310*	+6	
	82,486	−180	...	82,666		
1898.	81,673		...	*81,537*		−136
	80,302	−106	...	80,408		
1897.	78,931		...	*79,026*	+95	
	77,677	+32	...	77,645		
1896.	76,423		...	*76,422*		−1
	75,000	−200	...	75,200		
1895.	73,577		...	*73,740*	+163	
	72,444	+161	...	72,281		
1894.	71,314		...	*71,314*		
	70,406	+58	...	70,348		
1893.	69,499		...	*69,608*	+107	
	68,367	−301	...	68,868		
1892.	67,236		...			

The figures in italics are the means between those immediately above and below them, and would represent the actual residence on a June 30th or December 31st, as the case may be, if the movements proceeded in regular fashion.

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