this or other countries, and it would be desirable to ascertain if anything has been done, anything which is not liable to frequent abuse nor prohibitive in cost. The country has long demanded similar protection in railway trains, and the results are as yet far from satisfactory.

The second suggestion is engaging much attention at present. Adequate supervision at night has long been desired by every superintendent, and we need only refer to the discussion on the paper by Dr. Middlemass and Dr. Elkins at our last Annual Meeting, to show that it occupies a foremost place in our thoughts. No doubt fatal accidents of the kind will continue to occur by day as well as by night. These are risks which are inseparable from asylum life, and risks which have been duly noticed by the Parliamentary Committee in their efforts to secure compensation for those whose duties place them in posts of danger. Yet these are risks which should be minimised by every possible effort. It is evident that the question is ripe for discussion, and we hope that practical suggestions will be forthcoming by which, without great increase of staff, patients in dormitories may be assured of safety.

Notes and Queries.

Dr. MERCIER has made a suggestion which might easily be developed into a valuable aid to those who are concerned with the progress of mental science. He thinks that part of this JOURNAL should be reserved for Notes and Queries. There are many questions demanding solution, and closer thinking might well result in concise statements of opinion as to undecided or undefined points. This has already been brought under notice in the short-lived career of a French journal to which we referred in January of last year.

L'Intermédiaire des Neurologistes et des Aliénistes was designed to be a medium for the exchange of ideas connected with neurology and insanity. Unfortunately it did not prove a success. Perhaps the comparatively small numbers of those to whom it appealed did not suffice to maintain an extra periodical so limited in scope. Dr. Mercier's proposal, however, is well calculated to stimulate and to inform. It gives promise

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of results which would render this JOURNAL more useful to our readers. We do not ask for lengthy replies to the questions; but we hope that, by the middle of next quarter, brief answers will be forthcoming to the preliminary inquiries which he submits, and that further queries will be suggested.

Queries.

1. What becomes of the children of general paralytics, begotten in the early stages of the malady?
2. What is the meaning of the word *degenerate?*
3. How may heredity be supposed to act in the production of insanity?
4. How is a morbid change in the brain cell to be interpreted?

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Part II.—Reviews.

The Elmira Reformatory. The Twenty-third Year-book (1898) *of the New York State Reformatory.*

A SOUND if uneventful record of work. The reports of the school director, the trades-school director, the manual training director, and the physical director show that all these departments are carried on with energy and considerable success. Much is claimed for manual training, and it is believed that in enabling prisoners to do good honest work they are enabled to become good honest men. Considerable weight is also attached to the experiment now going on with regard to treatment by food and diet.

It is noteworthy that in the report of the Board of Managers a strong appeal is made for an absolutely indeterminate sentence. At present the managers are limited by the maximum sentence imposed by law. When that is reached, the prisoner must be released, whatever his condition may be. The managers believe that public feeling is now ripe for the abolition of this restriction, and they point out that no hardship could thus be inflicted on the prisoners, for the inmates of Elmira are liberated considerably sooner (on an average after two years and two months, instead of four years) than if they had been sent for the same offence to an ordinary prison. While, however, the majority are stimulated to exertion and improvement by the hope of earlier release, there remain a minority whose inertia requires a greater

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