A clinic at Wellington Hospital is also associated with this hospital, which, apart from being a treatment centre for certain forms of psycho-neurosis, is also a channel for the admission of voluntary patients of suitable type.

The average number of patients resident at the Nelson Mental Hospital during the year 1927 was 398; there were 57 admissions and 15 voluntary boarders were under treatment during the year. Imbecile boys from all parts of the dominion are sent to this institution, the overcrowding is great, and Dr. Jeffreys appeals for new villas to be erected.

At the Hokitika Mental Hospital there were 226 patients on the register at the beginning of the year, and 216 at the end (M., 152; F., 64), and 14 patients were admitted.

The Christchurch Mental Hospital is fortunate in having attached to it a neuropathic hospital at Hornby, and for clinical and pathological examinations, the valuable assistance of Prof. Hercus of the Otago Medical School (Dunedin). There were 886 patients on the register at the end of the year as against 870 at the beginning, and the admissions for the year were 166 (M., 89; F., 77).

The average weekly number of patients at Seacliff Mental Hospital was, during the year, 1138 (M., 627; F., 511), admissions 164 (M., 93; F., 71), and of these 20 were voluntary boarders; a separate neuropathic hospital is now being built at Puketeraki, near by, which will be worked in association with this institution, in addition to the already existing admission cottage.

In all the mental hospitals in New Zealand, taken together, syphilis was regarded as a causative factor in 7·7% of cases amongst males, and 0·72% amongst females; alcohol was a causative factor in 7·53% of males and 2·41% of females.

The total voluntary admissions, male and female, first and not-first admissions, have steadily increased from 23 in 1912 to 197 in 1927.

It is noticeable that in a recent bill amending the existing Mental Defectives Act, which has now passed the New Zealand House of Representatives, clauses which had been introduced prohibiting the marriage, and authorizing the sterilization of persons registered under this Act, were excluded.

SYRIA.

Lebanon Hospital.—The total extent of Syria under the French mandate, is an area rather larger than that of England and Wales and this comparatively small hospital of 140 beds is not only the only one provided for mental patients in this large area, but also reaches out its helping hand to such widely distant places as Armenia and Anatolia, Baghdad and Alexandria. There were on the hospital registers on March 31, 1928, 136 patients (M., 74; F., 62), an increase of two in the year; 163 cases were admitted during the year, a remarkably large number for a hospital of this size.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.75.308.181 Published online by Cambridge University Press

"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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