is. The building and incidental charges for its upkeep are provided for the public good, and for the public benefit arising from segregation of those who would otherwise be a source of trouble and danger to the community; and therefore his occupation, often unwilling, of a portion of it is not a matter on which a charge could be necessarily fastened on a patient, though if he can contribute in respect of it, so much the better.

The Committee has scored on the Guardians in the matter of settlement. Being satisfied that some patients really had no settlement in London, it made inquiries of its own into more than 1,000 cases, with the result that up to the time of report it found no less than 57 cases which were adjudicated and removed. These 57 cases had in the matter of maintenance alone cost the ratepayers about £21,000, of which under the law only £1,600 has been recoverable—the loss from insufficient inquiry thus being £19,000, without taking into account the capital charges. The annual gain by removal of the cases is about £2,250, plus more beds. This action has, the Committee reports, infused more activity into the Guardians.

The Pensions question is, happily, now nearly dead, but a lengthy statement of the whole position shows what immense care and trouble was taken by Mr. Keene when it was in process of final settlement, and, in case there should be any lingering doubt as to the principles, this statement may advantageously be consulted. The actual scheme adopted by the Council seems to be as liberal as might have been expected from past records. A very valuable opinion from Mr. Macmorran has been obtained and is set out, dealing with the various difficulties and uncertainties arising in connection with "aggregation" and "continuous service." This opinion has been advantageously used in one case to our knowledge, and may well be used by others.

Reports of Commissioners.

Banstead.—The report commences with a generous recognition of the work of Dr. Jones and his staff. The visiting Commissioners endorse the remarks of their colleagues, who animadverted on the large and unwieldly wards in the older part. They suggest reconstruction, or, if this is impossible, they advise their dividing up by glass screens.

Cane Hill.—Here, too, are remarks of a satisfying character on the kindness shown to patients, and the thankfulness therefor expressed by the patients themselves. It is recorded that in 144 cases of death (46 being from general paralysis) no bed-sore was found.

Claybury.—Again the Commissioners speak approvingly of the evidence of kind relations between the staff and the inmates. They attribute the absence of grievances and complaints in a great measure to the regular visitation of the patients by members of the Visiting Committee. On the other hand, they rightly condemn the neglect of one Board of Guardians who have never visited their patients, though nearly one hundred of their patients are confined here. They mention the accurate knowledge that Dr. Robert Jones has of his patients. As

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we have said before, in our eyes this knowledge, and the close attention which necessarily underlies it, redound more to the credit of medical officers than economy. We feel sure that the notice given to such matters by Commissioners is a just and efficient acknowledgment of conscientious endeavour, made under drab and depressing conditions.

Medical Superintendents' Reports.

At *Banstead* the Matron gives demonstrations in invalid cooking all the year round, which are very well attended. This, of course, is in addition to the ordinary nursing instruction.

Bexley.—Dr. Stansfield goes a good deal into heredity and family histories. He gives a flagrant, but not, we fear, a very uncommon, instance of perverse and useless lying by relatives in this direction. A father, on the admission of his daughter, stated on the inquiry form that there had been no breakdown in his family, in spite of the fact that another daughter was at Bexley at the very time, and a brother was known to be in another London asylum. He gives some interesting statistics of multiple insanity in families, but these no doubt are embodied in Dr. Mott's work, to which we shall refer later. The following are truly horrifying: A father, three sons and one daughter; father, mother, son; father, mother, son and daughter; three brothers and two sisters; four brothers; and so on. Sterilisation is still a great desideratum in his judgment.

At *Cane Hill* the charge nurses have been given a separate mess as an experiment, similar to a sergeants' mess in the Army. The result has been very satisfactory, the status of these officers having been thereby raised and discipline improved.

Claybury.—Dr. Robert Jones truly says that the term "recovery" is used in an elastic sense. Thereby he personally denotes the attainment of a fair mental integrity at the time of discharge. Two women and three men, general paralytics, and five epileptics were so regarded on discharge. He says that in these cases no one would deem true recovery to have occurred, but they are able to support their families and to exercise their citizenship creditably. He also thinks that on our side we have as much reason for the use of the term as have special and general hospitals. This is probably quite true, but in the case of the upper classes one's legal responsibilities may be more coercing than medical considerations. A female patient was admitted suffering from leprosy. Dr. Robert Jones is fortunate in having some rich neighbours who are kind enough to entertain parties of patients in their grounds, and others who voluntarily aid mental convalescents. We make a note of this kindness since there is plenty of evidence of a really beneficent feeling towards the insane, if only it can be got to a start. Concrete instances of success, which can be pointed to, may encourage others who are willing.

At *Colney Hatch* Dr. Seward speaks very favourably of the new villas for young male patients. They help convalescence and improve the

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