Family Care will be held at Milan in 1906. Great interest is being taken in these events by alienists, the proceedings of which will form material for future Reports.

I will conclude with some items of news which are more or less related to the subject of this paper, and which will be of interest to the readers of the *Journal of Mental Science*. For a year now there has been in force the "law of pardon," which permits a judge to suspend for the first time the carrying out of the sentence of the Court so long as the accused does not offend again.

We are ready also for a change in the law regarding the treatment of "habitual criminals" similar to that recently adopted in England, considering that society has a right to protect itself against these miserable creatures and to take advantage of their possible aptitude for work.

Lastly, there has been founded at Ferrara by Prof. Capellitti a new "Ecole de Police Scientifique" analogous to that established in Rome, which I mentioned in my last year's Report, and which is directed by Prof. Ottolenghi.

Thus Italy continues in the path of progress and enlightenment, and I am thankful for the opportunity of once more recording it

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NORWAY (1902 to 1904).

By Dr. M. Holmboe.

In a previous communication to this Journal in 1898 regarding psychiatry in Norway, I have given a summary of the number of insane according to the census taken in 1865 and in 1891. I gave then my opinion that the increase, as indicated by the latter census, depends certainly to some extent upon inaccurate investigation, but that it was still too great to be explained by that circumstance alone, especially as regards acquired mental disease. The results of the latest census, taken on December 3rd, 1900, are stated below, together with the two previous returns:

	1865	1891	1900
Imbeciles and idiots	2039	2431	4559
Acquired mental diseases	3156	5318	5897
Total	5195	7749	10456

In proportion to the population:

	1865	1891	1900
Imbeciles and idiots	1·835	1·823	1·491
Acquired mental diseases	1·539	1·376	1·380
Total	1·327	1·258	1·214

The considerable increase of the number of idiots from 1891 to 1900, as indicated by the two last censuses, is, however, only apparent. Because the terms used in the older returns had been misunderstood, so that in great part only well-marked idiots had been counted, these terms were changed in 1900. In consequence of this idiots, more or less educable, were counted in the last census. The returns, therefore, are not suitable for comparison with the earlier ones, but will,

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when compared with those of the coming census, give a more correct base for the estimation of increase or decrease of congenital insanity.

On the other hand, the last census seems to indicate that the frequency of acquired mental disease has hardly undergone any change in the decennium 1891-1900 in proportion to the population.

The new State asylum for the northern part of Norway, at Roenvik, near Bodoe, which I mentioned in my last Report, was opened in October, 1902. It accommodates 250 patients, and is now full. It is probable that the new asylum at present fully satisfies the needs of that district for which it was built, and it has also been able to receive patients from other parts of this country.

The county of Akerstrus, which contains the well-to-do districts surrounding the capital, opened in 1904 a new lunatic asylum, at Blakstad, in Asker. It is built on the colony plan, and consists of a closed central brick building for about 50 patients and two open cottages, each for 25 patients, the one for women and the other for men. To this asylum, which is situated in a beautiful park, belongs a large farm, which will provide the patients with sufficient occupation. It was erected and is managed by the county, and is mainly intended for the accommodation of incurable patients, who have hitherto been cared for not so satisfactorily in private families. It was opened in one of the last weeks of 1904, and is now more than half full. The erection of this asylum indicates in my opinion a step in the right direction—namely, that the counties should build asylums for the incurable insane, while the State asylums in greater measure than heretofore should be reserved for the curables. Since the erection of the two last-mentioned asylums, there is now accommodation for 2060-2070 lunatics, *i.e.* nearly 1 per thousand of the population, and this ratio will be reached when the new asylum, which is being built by the community of Kristiania, is opened in the course of this year. It is to be hoped that the lack of accommodation for the insane, so long complained of, will then be materially overtaken.

As regards the private houses, where more than two lunatics are lodged and boarded (the so-called colonies), the Department of Justice has, since the beginning of 1902, introduced a more strict control, regulations having been promulgated intending to secure the patients a better hygiene, a more careful treatment, and a greater protection against fire. But we are striving to abolish these "colonies" and to provide room in asylums for most of these patients, so that only those who are suitable should get private care in families. These ought, in my opinion, to be accommodated singly, and there should not be a number of them at the same time in the same family.

The State has erected a new modern boarding-school at Levanger (near Trondhjem), for educable idiots, while one of older date at Christiania has been discontinued.

SPAIN.

By Dr. W. CAROLEU.

"Better late than never" is a Spanish proverb applicable to the recent ministerial Act introducing mental science into medical schools,

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