the female attendants having over five years' service. The great majority of charge attendants have over ten years. Dr. Braine-Hartnell makes remarks on the question of nursing male patients by female attendants.

The nursing of the insane is the topic of the hour among asylum medical officers. I think we are destined to see great and radical changes in this part of the work. The desire is to bring asylum nursing into line with general hospital nursing. This would necessitate an increased staff, especially by night. It is proposed to undertake the care of the male hospital wards with trained nurses. The matter is as yet in a tentative stage. It has been chiefly tried in Scotland, and its advocates are loud in their praise. I think we ought to be able to show that the increased cost would give an increased recovery rate before we make such wide and sweeping changes.

Some Registered Hospitals.

The Lawn, Lincoln—The Coppice, Nottingham.—We are glad to note that both these hospitals have had a successful financial year. Neither is in receipt of substantial assistance from endowments or accumulations, but both apparently succeed in making their patients comfortable, and in both the recovery rate is good, being 43 and 60 per cent. respectively. The average payment of patients for maintenance, etc., and incidents is about £110 per annum.

The Retreat, York.—Dr. Bedford Pierce notes a recovery in a case of dull, silent melancholia after seventeen years' residence.

A striking instance of the value of work as an aid to recovery occurred recently in the case of a gentleman suffering from severe melancholia. As is commonly the case, he thought his condition was utterly hopeless. At first fitfully, and later on regularly and industriously, he assisted in the routine indoor domestic work, and polished the brasses with great vigour, and in other ways he materially helped the attendants. During this time he would say he was no better and had no hope of recovery, although it was evident he was improving all round. Very soon he began to exercise his influence on others, and he coaxed and bullied another gentleman, also deeply depressed, into helping in the work, the result being that not only did he himself perfectly recover but he contributed to the recovery of his companion. Both gentlemen are now filling important and responsible positions in life.

Patients doing regular work in the garden continue to be paid by the hour, an arrangement which answers well. One patient admitted at the lowest rate earns sufficient to pay for his maintenance, whilst others keep themselves in clothes and pocket money.

Some Scotch District Asylums.

Hartwood, Lanark.—This is the first report make by Dr. Neil Kerr, whom we congratulate on his appointment. Dr. Kerr has no doubt that a certain number of alcoholic cases are erroneously returned as such, intemperance being a symptom and not a cause. It would be highly interesting if any one could give a series of cases in which abstainers from birth had taken to drink in consequence of mental alienation. A case of recovery from mania is recorded after thirteen years' residence, the greater part of which was spent in noisiness, violence, and threatening. Dr. Kerr, during the four months' interval since discharge, had heard from the man regularly, and knows that he is doing useful work in the world. One case who escaped had to be discharged at the end of twenty-eight days because, though it was known to the

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