"It is usual now in mental hospitals to subject all admissions to the Wassermann test. This was done last year on the male side and we hope in future to include the women also; it is a question of laboratory facilities. The malarial inoculation treatment has been applied to all cases and it is really remarkable in what a small percentage good does not accrue. Even if complete recovery is not attained, most patients become quieter and more manageable, cleaner in habits and less difficult to nurse. Dr. Stewart has initiated a modification of the method, which consists in stopping the malarial attack by quinine as soon as the parasites are recognized in the blood during the first rigor, then a few months later inducing a second and then a third short attack. This is much safer for the patient and cuts out the risk of deaths from malaria, nor does it, in our short experience, appear less efficacious than allowing a succession of rigors to occur before giving quinine. That a high temperature has nothing to do with cure is shown by the case of a man who recovered and is now at work outside, in whose blood parasites were abundant without any rigor occurring at all. Coming to statistics of general paralysis, 2 men, out of the 1927 admissions, were discharged recovered during the year, as well as 1 man who had been here since 1925. Three others will almost certainly be discharged this year. Two men and one woman died without inoculation, being considered too feeble, one man and one woman died before the first rigor had time to develop, and two men died of malarial broncho-pneumonia, one before the parasites had appeared in the blood. One man has greatly improved and the rest have not changed, in most of whom insufficient time has elapsed. No case has been made definitely worse. Including admissions in former years the total death roll from general paralysis was 7 men and 3 women."

The cases of encephalitis lethargica that were admitted were all definitely Parkinsonian with the exception of one girl (apache), and one boy (acute katatonia). None of these cases showed any improvement. One girl died suddenly, and at the *post-mortem* was found to have enlarged pineal and pituitary glands and a large persistent thymus.

Difficulties in connection with the nursing staff are well illustrated by a paragraph in the Committee's report.

"The position regarding candidates for the post of probationer nurse, which last year showed signs of improvement, has again deteriorated. Of late, advertisements in the Nursing Press produce an inadequate result. It is scarcely recognized what heavy additional organization a teaching school entails, for it predicates the dismissal of those who refuse to work during training and repeatedly fail in the professional examinations. In the past year 33 nurses left the service out of a staff of 64, although 3 of these were ward sisters given three years' leave for general hospital training, who will presumably ultimately return. Of the 30 remaining no fewer than 10 were dismissed for repeated failure to enter for or pass the R.M.P.A. examinations; 1 was dismissed for misconduct. Six probationers broke their contract and left without notice. Formerly the Committee used to prosecute such persons in the County Court, but this custom has fallen into abeyance. Mostly such girls desert from a passing whim or temporary homesickness, and many who would do the same, were it not for their contract, afterwards turn out excellent nurses. Six left on the expiry of their contract, and four were released by the Committee, three alleging impending marriage. Three were released by the medical superintendent under section 4 of their contract on account of illness. This analysis gives some idea of the restless spirit abroad in the nursing world of women, and may be compared with the male side."

BURMAH.

The accommodation provided for mental disease in the Burmese portion of British India consists of three mental hospitals, two at Rangoon (St. John's Road Hospital and Tadagale), and a smaller one at Minbu. Thus an area of about 240,000 square miles having a

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population of some 13,000,000 is served by mental hospitals carrying an average population of a little over a thousand.

The admissions for the year 1927 were 276 (M., 245; F., 31), a proportion of males to females of about 9 to 1.

"There are no doubt economic reasons for this. The actual proportion of male and female insanes to the general population is about equal, but as the men are more troublesome to look after, they are sent to an asylum."

Of the ætiological factors noted amongst the admissions, sexual excess is given as a predisposing factor in the case of three men and three women. Alcohol, cannabis indica, opium and cocaine, in that order of prevalence, were causative factors in a total of 60 cases.

Acquired syphilis is a responsible factor in the case of 10 male patients.

"Considering the remarkable prevalence of venereal diseases in Rangoon, the proportion of cases of neuro-syphilis which results in mental failure is small; this is to be anticipated in a population largely engaged in manual labour."

The recovery-rate calculated on the admissions was practically 12%, and the death-rate 6% calculated on the average population.

47% of all the admissions are from Rangoon district, which is in harmony with the fact that over 40% of the total population are located in the South Central portion of Burmah.

In the report of Col. W. H. C. Forster, I.M.S. (the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals) there are terms which to modern minds seem strangely out of place in "mental hospitals," such as "keepers," and "cells."

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

Central Mental Hospital, Tanjong Rambutan.—The total number of patients remaining on the books of the hospital on December 31, 1927, was 2220 (M., 1899; F., 321), an increase of 193 over the previous year, and the largest increase since the opening of this institution, although it has now ceased to take the Singapore patients.

During the year 900 patients were admitted, an increased number, attributed by Dr. Samuels to increase of population, higher speed of life, the pressure of Western education, and greater competition, and in addition "people are becoming more and more ready to bring their relations to hospital."

Of the forms of mental disease in the admissions, primary dementia easily heads the list, and in order of frequency there follow recent melancholia, recent mania, confusional insanity, and general paralysis; the latter being almost completely confined to the Chinese section of the population.

"Primary dementia still continues to increase at an alarming rate, showing 286 cases in 1927 against 216 the year before. This is a particularly deplorable condition of things, seeing that it is the young that are attacked, and also the probability of a recurrence, even in cases where an apparent cure has been obtained.

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