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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an attempted reform which has unfortunately been frustrated by the mania for economy. One cannot help thinking it is a mistake to appoint the clinical professors of internal pathology teachers of mental science, instead of introducing special sections into the hospital curriculum. As almost all teachers affect a contempt for psychiatry, such a scheme is obviously doomed to disaster. Doubtless we shall see this subject introduced into the programme of study, but students will leave the hospitals with no greater knowledge of psychiatrical science than formerly. It is an old story in Spain that it is easier to attain to the shadow than the substance.

M. Casamado, a prominent official in the Hôtel de Ville, Barcelona, has rendered signal service both to medical practitioners and to laymen by collating in an admirable book the results of legislation relating to the insane, and more particularly to the admission of patients into asylums as provided for by the Act of 1885. We should like also to refer to the valuable leading articles on the same subject written by Dr. Rodriguez Mendez and appearing in the *Phrenopathical Review*. The existing laws on this subject present an unparallelled medley of vulgar prejudices and insane ideas. The certificates of insanity are entrusted to the care of the borough or district authorities, whilst towards asylums the attitude of the law is one of suspicion, favouring, as it does, the claims of individuals who are willing to take in lunatics as patients under single care. And this too in a country notorious for its lack of nurses! The confusion engendered by this most absurd legislation is well-nigh incalculable.

There are at present 38 lunatic asylums in Spain—from St. Bandilius, with almost 1300 inmates, to Our Lady of Carmel with 5; whilst in 24 counties there is not a single asylum. The proportion of insane to the total population is 60 per 100,000. There are 9000 patients in asylums, but if we include those who are confined in the Depôts in the Municipal Buildings, and the large number who are kept in private and boarding houses, this total would be considerably higher. The State provision for the mentally degenerate is very inadequate. Thus, there is no special building for criminal lunatics, while only one lunatic asylum, that of St. Elizabeth of Seganés, is supported by a Government grant. There is a similar lack of provision for backward children, imbeciles, idiots, alcoholics, and morphinomaniacs, for none of whom are there suitable buildings erected, the only exception being the Durain Asylum for feeble-minded children. Epileptics, on the other hand, have a magnificent asylum in Carabanchel Alto, in Madrid, but mentally afflicted patients are not admitted into this institution.

The number of lunatic asylums is increasing daily. Quite recently one has been erected at Pamplona; that, the Vasco-Navarro, is not yet opened, but is considered to be the best of the recognised institutions of this class. In Majorca, too, there is a project for the erection of a model building for the insane, who are all too numerous in the Balearic Islands. As a general rule, in Spain, the asylums are well attended by students, but scientific work is backward, and the material is not well selected. There are fourteen physicians on our legislative bodies and yet there is no sign of an awakening from this inaction or

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of any attempt to introduce improvements into the legislation pertaining to the asylum treatment of the insane.

No alienist has yet investigated the mental condition of the Anarchist. Lombroso has no followers in Spain, and the only literature dealing with criminal insanity is by jurists and philosophers, such as Dorado and Gil-Maestre. A decided advance in this matter has, however, been made in the erection of the new prison at Barcelona, built with a view to individual sequestration and the separation of inmates according to their peculiar circumstances. There has been no attempt at the introduction of the reformatory system for that class which is on the border-land between insanity and crime. This system is being tried in the United States in the case of refractory children and fallen and repentant women, but up to the present the results have been entirely unsatisfactory, and several of these homes furnish incidents comparable to what one reads of in *Oliver Twist.*

In Dr. Rodrigo Gonzalez we have lost an eminent specialist and a man experienced in asylum management. Ciempozuelos, where he spent the greater part of his life, has suffered a great and well-nigh irrecoverable loss. In the midst of a very busy practice he published a valuable work entitled *On Insanities of the Will*, and at the Fourteenth Medical Congress his *Special Treatment for Alcoholics* received a very favourable criticism.

The literature of psychology is still scant. Rarely more than a single booklet is published in the twelvemonth; the majority of the contributions consist merely of extracts from speeches and articles occurring in periodicals, as Dr. Oto Esquirdo's *Aberrant Impulsion*, and *Conscient Psychosis.* Even in South America this aspect of the work shows a greater vitality, as witness quite a considerable number of books on mental science published in Lima, Mexico, and Monte Video, but especially in Buenos Ayres. The people who, in the fifteenth century, set an example to the civilised world by founding the first lunatic asylum ought to rouse themselves from this state of lethargy.

Part IV.—Notes and News.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at the North Riding Asylum, Clifton, near York, on Thursday, February 23rd, 1905, at 3 p.m., under the Presidency of Dr. R. Percy Smith.

Present:—Drs. T. Stewart Adair, W. Lloyd Andriezen, M. Alex. Archdale, Robert Baker, Fletcher Beach, T. S. Clouston, Samuel Edgerley, John W. Geddes, F. Sidney Gramshaw, Ernest G. Grove, Frederic P. Hearder, J. Tregelles Hingston, Theo. B. Hyslop, J. Carlyle Johnstone, Robert Jones (Hon. Sec.), Herbert W. Kershaw, Murdoch D. Macleod, Thomas W. McDowell, Henry J. Mackenzie, S.

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