PLASMON.

This preparation has now been tried in several asylums, and we hear that good results have been gained by its use. It is, essentially, the separated casein of milk, and is presented as a dry powder which forms a gelatinous mass with water. Professor Virchow has made experiments showing that plasmon retains powerful nourishing qualities, while it remains practically tasteless and colourless. From independent chemical analysis it is a substance of distinct value, and we hope to present our readers with some account of the beneficial results of administering it to the insane.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Dr. Beveridge Spence.

In reply to your question, in eight of my new dormitories—accommodating about 160 persons—I have electric push buttons placed and marked "To communicate with the night attendant push this button," and the bell connected with the push is placed at the station where the night attendant or nurse sits when not walking about, and this station is so situated that a bell ringing at night must be heard by the night attendant or nurse at any point of his or her round. I may say that although I have had these pushes provided in some of the dormitories for about six years I have never heard that they have been used—or abused.

Burntwood Asylum.
August 31st, 1900.

From Dr. Moody.

Having been struck by the isolation of patients between the hours 8—10.30 p.m. in dormitories which are only visited periodically by the night attendants, I brought the matter under the notice of the Committee at the end of 1895, and obtained sanction for the provision of an electric alarm.

In every dormitory where there is no stationary night attendant a push button is provided. This, when used, rings a bell in the entrance hall and indicates in which ward attention is required. The bed nearest the button is occupied by the most sensible patient in the dormitory, who not only gives an alarm when necessary, but prevents the bell being rung without reason.

The alarm has on several occasions been of service in cases of sudden illness or disturbances, and has quite justified the outlay involved.

After 10.30 p.m. the attendants' rooms, which adjoin dormitories and which have windows in the division walls, are occupied, and the electric alarm not being required is disconnected for the remainder of the night.

London County Asylum, Canehill;
September 15th, 1900.

From Dr. Cecil F. Beadles.

There is a general opinion amongst the Jewish community that insanity is abnormally prevalent in the race. This idea seems to have been derived from Prussian statistics. But is this so for Jews in this country?

With a view of obtaining an answer to this interesting, and I venture to think important, question, I have sought information at certain asylums as to the number of Jewish inmates therein, on the two dates December 31st, 1898, and June 30th, 1900. The former date is chosen as one on which a comparison may be made with the non-Jewish insane of the country; the latter as the number of Jewish insane existing at the present time.

Knowing that the Jews in this country, are almost entirely located in a few of the larger towns, it seemed useless to ask these questions of many of the provincial asylums. But as it is possible that some institutions where Jewish patients are received have been overlooked, I shall be glad if the Superintendents of these will communicate with me on the subject, to enable me to obtain as complete returns as possible.

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