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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"To me it is a sign that more care should be exercised in the choice of boys for higher education. Many boys, who would do perfectly well at a trade are pushed to make bad clerks instead of useful mechanics. Many of these boys break down as a result of the attempt to make them what they were never intended to be."

The recovery-rate for the year was 37·7, but Dr. Samuels explains that the term includes cases of temporary cessation of symptoms.

As regards ætiology, syphilis, alcohol, influenza and malaria occupy prominent places.

"In addition to syphilis and alcohol appearing as primary causes, one notices that we have on 98 occasions cardio-vascular degeneration appearing as a secondary cause. A large number of these cases of cardio-vascular degeneration might be laid at the door of either syphilis or alcohol, so one sees how important these two are as causes of the mental ill-health of the Federated Malay States.

"Syphilis has always, at least in our time, been here, but alcohol is more or less a recent cause and its appearance may be dated from the day that attempts to cut off opium were made.

"I wonder, have the people who cry out against opium thought of the alternative, and of the crime attributable to alcohol which opium never gives rise to.

"Of the less common causes adolescence and mental strain taken together make a total of nearly 70, and one wonders how many of these are due to education above the boys' capacity; I fear a great many."

Dr. Samuels complains, and apparently with good reason, of the burden of administration caused by the continual flooding of the hospital by criminal cases, and pleads for a separate institution similar to Broadmoor for Malaya.

NEW ZEALAND.

In this dominion, a country (without its accompanying islands) rather more than twice the size of England, with a population (1926) of 1,344,348, there are seven mental hospitals, at respectively, Auckland, Tokanui, Porirua, Christchurch, Nelson, Seacliff and Hokitika, and since overcrowding is present in an acute form in all the existing mental hospitals, and the estimated annual increase is approximately 200, a new hospital for Auckland is in process of development at Puhitahi.

The report is that of the "Minister in Charge of the Department for the Care of Mental Defectives," on the mental hospitals of the dominion for the year 1927.

At the Auckland Mental Hospital the weekly average number under care was 1105, and the admissions for the year were 227, 47 being voluntary boarders, of whom there were 96 in residence. The recovery-rate for the year was approximately 29%.

There were 337 (M., 213; F., 124) patients in the Tokanui Mental Hospital at the commencement of the year 1927, 61 were admitted, and the year ended with 345 (M., 221; F., 124) patients.

At the Porirua Mental Hospital there were 1,408 patients at the end of the year, an increase of 80 since January 1, the total admissions for the year were 291 (M., 158; F., 133) and of these 37 were voluntary boarders. At this hospital a separate admission villa, "Bella Vista," is established, and to this all new admissions are received with the exception of those obviously of hopeless prognosis.

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