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INSANITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.¹

ACCORDING to the Sixtieth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy for England and Wales, recently issued, the number of certified insane persons under care on January 1, 1906, in England and Wales was 121,979, of whom 9,802 were private patients, 111,256 pauper patients and 921 criminal lunatics. Of the total number, 89,342 were maintained in county and borough asylums, 17,742 in work-houses and metropolitan district asylums, 7,973 in registered hospitals, licensed houses and in naval and military hospitals, 776 were in the criminal lunatic asylum at Broadmoor, 528 were private single patients and there were 5,618 outdoor pauper lunatics.

The report shows a total increase in the number of the certified insane of 2,150 over the numbers of the previous year. This increase compares favorably with the increments of the three previous years, which were 2,630 for 1904, 3,235 for 1903 and 3,251 for 1902. Further, it is less by 404 than the annual average increase for the decennium ending December 31, 1905, namely, 2,554, and less by 657 than the average increase for the latter half of this decennium, namely, 2,807. Compared with 1904 the private patients have increased by 162, the criminal lunatics by 9 and the pauper patients by 1,979, the increase in the private patients being greater by 79, but the increase of the criminal lunatics being less by 26 and that of the pauper patients by

¹ From the *British Medical Journal*.

527, than in 1904. This shrinkage in the increase of pauper and criminal insanity, small though it may be, is highly satisfactory, and this is supported by the fact that in county and borough asylums the proportion of private patients to the total number therein has risen from 2.7 to 2.8 per cent. during the year. As to the fluctuations of pauper insanity in counties and boroughs the commissioners say that, as compared with the previous year, there has been in the 63 administrative counties a net increase in 40 counties amounting to 1,360 in all. In 20 counties there has been a net decrease amounting to 166, and in three counties—Hereford, Rutland and Somerset—neither increase nor decrease. London County shows by far the largest increase, amounting to 305. Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Surrey and the West Riding of Yorkshire, also show considerable increases. Of the 72 county boroughs an increase, amounting to 769 in all, occurred in 54, a decrease amounting to 109 in 14, and in 3—Chester, Hastings and South Shields—neither increase nor decrease. Of the 19 boroughs 11 showed an increase, amounting to 70 in all; in 7 there was a decrease, amounting in all to 31, and in 1 borough there was neither increase nor decrease.

Turning to the general question of the increase of insanity since 1859, the total number of certified insane has risen from 36,762 to 121,979, a rate of increase equivalent to 231.8 per cent., the general population having increased during the same interval at the rate of 75.4 per cent. Taking only the past ten years, there has been during that period a total increase of the certified insane of 26.5 per cent. This increase, however, is, as is shown by a table furnished by the commissioners, not only variable, but steadily declining—that is, the increase has been mounting more slowly for some years. Corresponding to this absolute increase, the ratio of the insane to population is increasing at a lessened rate. On January 1, 1906, the total certified insane in England and Wales stood to the estimated population in the proportion of 1 to 283, as contrasted with 1 to 285 of last year, 1 to 288 of 1903 and 1 to 314 of ten

years ago—that is, the proportion of insane persons to the community, per 10,000, has risen from 31.89 to 35.31 during the decade. The increase in population during this period has been 10.8 per cent., and in the total number of insane under care 22.7 per cent. Thus, the number of insane persons under care, both numerically and relatively to population, is still steadily increasing, though, of course, this is not necessarily indicative of an increasing growth of actual occurring insanity. To this point we shall refer later. From the point of view of the ratepayers, however, this increase may be taken as an actual increase of insanity, particularly as the increase is practically confined to the pauper class. This is clearly brought out by Chart II., facing p. 6, showing the comparative variations in the proportion of the insane to total population from 1859 to 1906. In 1859 the ratio of private patients per 10,000 population was 2.38. This rose in 1879 to 2.97, then fell to 2.67 per 10,000 in 1897, since when it has risen slowly, and—with the exception of last year, when there was a drop of 0.01 per 10,000—steadily, to the present proportion of 2.84 per 10,000. The ratio of pauper lunatics, on the other hand, has risen without intermission from the 15.95 per 10,000 of 1859 to the present figure, for January 1, 1906, of 32.20 per 10,000. Doubtless the question of an actual increase of insanity is insoluble by purely statistical methods; but of these latter, the occurrence of insanity, as shown by the ratio of first admissions to population, furnishes the most reliable index. The commissioners' report does not contain information respecting this ratio for the years prior to 1898; but Table III., Appendix A, shows that in 1898 this ratio per 10,000 population was 4.92. This increased steadily to 5.76 in 1902, and since then has declined to 5.21, the ratio for 1905. Thus, so far as statistical evidence goes, these figures tend to show that for the last four years occurring insanity has not been on the increase relatively to population, and that the considerable absolute and relative increase of insane persons under care is to be explained by accumulation consequent on increasing

longevity of asylum inmates, increased certification, and so on.

THE LOWELL LECTURES.

LECTURES under the Lowell Institute, Boston, are announced as follows:

The first course will be eight lectures by Percival Lowell, non-resident professor of astronomy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, director of the Lowell observatory, Flagstaff, Ar., and medalist (Mars) of the French Astronomic Society, on 'Mars as the Abode of Life.' (1) 'Planetary Evolution: the Conditions and Possibilities of Life.' (2) 'Natural Features of Mars.' (3) 'Geology and Areology: Mars and Glacial Epochs.' (4) 'Geology and Areology: Loss of Oceans and Growth of Deserts.' (5) 'Habitability: Probability of Life on Mars.' (6) 'Non-Natural Features: Canals and Oases.' (7) 'Metamorphoses of the Canals.' (8) 'Habitation: the Proofs of Life on Mars.' On Mondays and Thursdays, at 8 P.M., beginning October 15.

The second course will be eight lectures (in French) by M. le Dr. Pierre Janet, professeur de psychologie au Collège de France, directeur du laboratoire de psychologie de la Salpêtrière, on 'Psychotherapeutics or the Applications of Psychology to Therapeutics' (*La psychothérapie, les applications de la psychologie à la thérapeutique*). (1) 'Résumé Historique.' (2) 'Principe de la Psychothérapie. Influence des Etats Psychologiques sur la Santé Physique et Morale.' (3) 'Psychothérapie Générale, L'Exhortation Morale.' (4) 'Les Méthodes Suggestives.' (5) 'Les Méthodes D'Isolement et de Repos.' (6) 'L'éducation Motrice.' (7) 'L'éducation de la Sensibilité, l'Æsthésiogénie.' (8) 'Le Relèvement de la Tension Psychologique L'Education de l'émotivité.' On Tuesdays and Fridays, at 8 P.M., beginning October 23.

The third course will be eight lectures by Barrett Wendell, professor of English in Harvard University, on 'Contemporary France.' (1) 'The Universities.' (2) 'The Structure of Society.' (3) 'The Family.' (4) 'The French Temperament.' (5) 'The Relation of Literature to Life.' (6) 'The Question of

Religion.' (7) 'The Revolution and Some of Its Effects.' (8) 'The Republic and Democracy.' On Mondays and Thursdays, at 8 P.M., beginning November 12.

The fourth course will be eight lectures by William James, professor of philosophy in Harvard University, on "The Movement Called 'Pragmatism' in Recent Philosophy." On Wednesday and Saturdays, at 8 P.M., beginning November 14.

The fifth course will be eight lectures by Alfred C. Haddon, Sc.D., F.R.S., university lecturer in ethnology, Cambridge, England, on 'The Melanesians: Racial Problems, Distribution of Culture, Social and Religious Evolution.' On Tuesdays and Fridays, at 8 P.M., beginning November 20.

The sixth course will be two lectures by William H. Furness, 3d, M.D., F.R.G.S., fellow of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, etc., on 'The Kayan and Kenyah Tribes of Borneo, and the Natives of Uap in the Caroline Islands.' On Monday, December 10, and Thursday, December 13, at 8 P.M.

The seventh course will be eight lectures by Professor George E. Woodberry, on 'Poetic Energy.' On Tuesdays and Fridays, at 8 P.M., beginning January 8, 1907.

The eighth course will be eight lectures by Colonel Sir Colin Scott Moncrieff, LL.D., knight commander of the Star of India, etc., on 'The English in India and Egypt.' On Mondays and Thursdays, at 8 P.M., beginning February 4.

The ninth course will be eight lectures by Frank M. Chapman, curator of ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, on 'The Distribution of North American Birds.' On Tuesdays and Fridays, at 8 P.M., beginning February 5.

The tenth course will be six lectures by Charles Sedgwick Minot, D.Sc., LL.D., etc., James Stillman professor of comparative anatomy in the Harvard Medical School, on 'The Problem of Age, Growth and Death.' On Mondays and Thursdays, at 8 P.M., beginning March 4.

The eleventh course will be eight lectures