

at Glasgow. A report was read on the outbreak of typhoid in South Uist, along with a letter from Mr. James Irving, Coatbridge, a brother of the nurse who contracted the fever and died—as we reported last week. Mr. Irving said the cases which his sister had to attend were in a filthy and miserable hovel, in which the poultry were kept as well as the patients. He considered it brutal that there was an almost entire lack of accommodation for the nurses in the district. When his sister caught the infection she was attended by a nurse who was just getting better of the fever. The people were so frightened of infection, and so superstitious, that they would not help in the matter of accommodation. When his sister died he made arrangements for taking her remains away. The local sanitary inspector was summoned to go and fix the coffin-lid, but he never went, and he (Mr. Irving) had to do it himself. He also pointed out that for four days the house in which his sister had died had not been disinfected. Altogether, he said, it was a state of matters which would not have been allowed elsewhere. He wished to draw their attention to the deplorable state of affairs, and to ask if they intended to defray the expenses, amounting to £17 18s. 7d., which were incurred in connection with the funeral. It was resolved that a copy of the letter should be sent to the South Uist District Committee, with a request for an explanation, and a suggestion that in the circumstances something should be paid towards the expenses incurred by Mr. Irving.

The *Lancet* records a new department in social hygiene which has just been set on foot in Paris under the name of "La Femme Tuberculeuse."

Its object is to protect the young girl, the mother and the child from tuberculosis by offering those who are menaced by the disease an opportunity of living in wholesome air during the period of enforced rest which may be considered necessary for the repair of their constitutions. The Society has opened a dispensary in the Rue Carpeaux, where mothers are taught how they should bring up their infants and where they can obtain milk of good quality so that they can give up suckling. The dispensary will also look after the disinfection of the lodgings and clothing of the tuberculous and will help the sick to live as hygienically as possible. Housewives and young girls can also be taught the elements of housekeeping at the dispensary, which will be open on holidays. A house which has been leased in the suburbs will serve for a house of rest, and in it there will be room for 120 pensioners. Finally, a convalescent home will be established in the centre of France, where pensioners will be able to stay for six months in fresh air.

The Hospital World.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

We hope that the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, who are at present considering the desirability of making some provision for the treatment of persons suffering from the milder forms of insanity or nervous derangement, will meet with the financial support to enable them to carry out their scheme. The proposition is that the outdoor department should be placed on a more satisfactory footing, and that a ward or wards should be set apart for patients of this class.

When we consider that over 119,000 beds are provided by the asylums of the United Kingdom for the reception of mental cases, we realise the appalling hold which insanity and the allied diseases have upon the nation. For these figures by no means represent the amount of patients who suffer from mental ailments, but rather those who have become so acutely or incurably ill as in many instances to need restraint. We know the aversion felt to entering a lunatic asylum for treatment, and how the fact of having once been an inmate of such an institution handicaps a patient in after life. Therefore those who need mental treatment rarely come under medical treatment in the incipient stages of disease, when skilled treatment, nursing care, and rest might result in complete recovery, but when the symptoms have become acute, when a cure is much more difficult, and perhaps the only possibility which remains is to alleviate incurable disease. Therefore, our hospitals should be provided with departments where cases of nervous derangement could attend without being branded as "lunatics," a word descending to us from the middle ages, and which, bearing with it, as it does undoubtedly, a certain amount of reproach, should find no place in our vocabulary; for a patient is not responsible for a morbid condition of his brain, any more than for such conditions of other parts of his body, which often arouse the keenest sympathy. Therefore, if our hospitals open wide their doors to a class of sufferers who more than any other are most pitiable, they should have the support of every sympathetic person.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL.

One of the results of the Baltimore disaster has been the serious crippling of the work of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, whose income was largely derived from the rent of buildings which it owned in the burned district. Sixty-eight warehouses, widely scattered, belonging to the hospital have been destroyed, and the hospital has lost the income from them for possibly two years. The hospital property destroyed aggregates nearly 1,300,000 dols. Owing to the complete destruction of the general office of the hospital, on Holliday Street, it is impossible to estimate how much insurance may be

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