

an attendant come to him and say "my hours are very heavy." But, "in comparison with other employments, one cannot but form the conclusion that the hours are very long compared to those in almost every other skilled employment." He considered, however, that the 60 hours of work proposed in the Bill afforded further relief than necessary, and that 72 might reasonably be substituted, subject to an annual holiday of at least 14 days.

Replying to a question on the subject of night duty, the witness informed the Committee that as a rule day and night duty are not interchangeable. In most asylums the night attendants are always night attendants. That is not universal, but it is almost universal, and it is for these reasons that the attendants much prefer it, and that it requires fewer special arrangements.

Dr. Cooke further said that the majority of nurses were contracting out under the Act of 1909, the reason being that they said they would never be able to keep on until the age of 55. As a rule the nurses began younger than the attendants, some as young as 18.

Dr. Cooke placed the probable average of hours of service per week at 84, which he admitted was much too long for men to work, and that constitutionally they would be stronger if their hours were 72 instead of 84 per week.

In reply to a question as to whether it was his opinion that the women's hours should be no longer than the men's, the witness said: "I think that women do not quite know what to do with their time off duty as men do. I do not think they are so anxious to get away. . . . A nurse at the City of London Asylum expressed the view that is believed to be generally entertained in these terms: 'I should not know what to do if I had more holiday. I am quite satisfied with things as they are.'"

Dr. Cooke also expressed the view that the fact of this matter being brought before the public, and the cause of attendants and nurses being championed, as it is being championed, should be of the greatest possible benefit. Hitherto the asylum attendant and the asylum nurse have been a negligible quantity.

#### NO STATUTORY DEFINITION OF THE TERM NURSE.

In reply to a remark of the chairman that there is no statutory definition of a male attendant or nurse, as opposed to other classes of servants in the asylums, the witness said he "did not know whether there was or was not. Under Section 1 of the Act of 1909 the asylum officers were to be divided into two classes, Nos. 1 and 2, and it is certainly the view of our Board that it was the intention of Parliament that only those should be included under the first class, whose primary duties are the care and treatment of the insane," but, owing to the wording of the Act of 1909, a difficulty had arisen, as Class I. is there defined to "consist of all those established officers and servants who have the care or charge

of patients in the usual course of their employment."

Asked by Lord Wolmer whether the attendants on night duty have any meals, Dr. Cooke replied "as a rule I should say not. It varies in different asylums, but, as a rule, they live out. When a man has done his duty in the morning he goes home, and he is allowed lodging money and also an allowance in lieu of board. That is the general rule." On Lord Wolmer's pointing out that in that case they were on duty for 10 hours without any food, the witness replied, "If a man lives in, and is boarded in, he has some tea, and something given him to eat, and the attendants, if they live out, themselves generally bring in something."

#### THE HOME OFFICE.

Mr. John F. Moylan, next gave evidence on behalf of the Home Office, and summarised the views which it has received from the Visiting Committees.

The witness told the Committee he was instructed to say that "the Home Office has no direct jurisdiction with regard to the staff, or the administrative arrangements of county and borough asylums, and has no special information as to the attendants' hours of duty, or as to the conditions of their employment generally," though "the Secretary of State does approve of general rules for the government of asylums, he does not make the rules; the rules are made by the Visiting Committee, and the Secretary of State approves them on the advice of the Lunacy Commissioners . . . his power to withhold approval does to some extent constitute a means, not always very effective, of enforcing proper provision for some of the matters arising in an asylum."

Referring to Clause I. of Lord Wolmer's Bill (which provides for a working week of sixty hours), the witness said that the opinion of seventeen Visiting Committees, which had sent resolutions on the subject of the Bill to the Home Office, was entirely adverse to the Clause, there was not among them a single opinion in its favour. "Some of them go so far as to say that asylum attendants are not in need of any more leisure, and that if they had it they would not know what to do with it."

Questioned as to the hours worked in the Criminal Lunatic Asylum at Broadmoor and in prisons, the witness said that at Broadmoor the hours of attendants were practically the same as those in county and borough asylums, which, exclusive of meals, holidays and other leave, really averaged 11¼ hours per day all the year round,—i.e., an 80-hours week. The hours were not so good as those in the London County Council asylums, and a Broadmoor attendant had generally a more dangerous and troublesome class of lunatic to deal with than the attendant in a county or borough asylum; but the proportion of attendants to patients was greater, which lessened the strain. In local prisons there was only one shift

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