

moving the resolution at the meeting, pleaded for the fundamental ideas of prevention and cure, and it has been decided that a physician, qualified as the rules require, and occupying an appointment in a public asylum in Northumberland or Durham, should attend at the infirmary one day in each week and prescribe for the out-patients placed under his care. Of course there were the usual objections, and even a notice of motion to rescind part of the resolutions; but it is to be hoped that the practical good sense which has been so far successful will carry the day at the next meeting, and in the end prove the wisdom and utility of the course adopted.

In several districts of the State of New York reception buildings have been provided in connection with general hospitals. The *Albany Medical Annals*, referring to the matter, says:—"It is anticipated that cases of acute delirium, alcoholic or otherwise, may be by these means protected from dangerous delay and neglect, that doubtful cases may be observed during consideration of the proper disposition to be made, and that commitments may be carefully and judiciously considered, to the advantage both of the patient and the State institution to which he may be sent."

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#### THE LONDON INEBRIATE REFORMATORY.

The inebriate reformatory for females established by the London County Council at Farmfield, near Horley, has been opened for the reception of inmates. Two mansions on an estate of 300 acres have been modified for the purpose in view, and Mrs. Matthias has been appointed superintendent. The institution will be watched with great interest, and as it is stated by Dr. Collins that the accommodation at disposal is already nearly fully occupied, we shall soon be in possession of information as to methods and results.

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#### EPILEPTIC COLONY NEAR MANCHESTER.

The David Lewis trustees have decided to purchase an estate at Warford, and to erect extensive buildings for the care of epileptics there. At least £50,000 are to be expended on the various houses of the proposed institution, which will be for private cases only.

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#### HYPNOTISM IN EXCELSIS.

The *Daily Mail* of the 24th September gives a long account of Dr. Forbes Winslow's use of hypnotism in the British Hospital for Mental Disorders and Brain Diseases. The writer was astonished. He concluded that what he witnessed was more wonderful than mere curative hypnotism, or else mere clowning. A case of obsession was not hypnotised at all, but Dr. Winslow professed to hypnotise May, his hired "medium," and to assure him that he had the patient's feelings. Unfortunately the patient could not assent to the proposition that transference had taken place and, in spite of the application of magnets, left the hospital with her mental confusion unabated.

Dr. Forbes Winslow thereafter wrote to the *Lancet* explaining that May is an electrical engineer, married, with two children, aged 32 years. He finds that mental concentration is difficult to obtain in nervous cases, and that suggestion must therefore be made indirectly through a transference medium. That is why Mr. J. May, qualified as above indicated, is employed to attend every week at the hospital. Dr. Winslow has no doubt that there were cases of transference shown among the hypnotic patients exhibited at the Paris Congress, and concludes by challenging any one to wake his medium by any fair means. The *Daily Mail* man indicates that the process is both rapid and facile. Perhaps it would be better to rouse our less expert hypnotists to a sense of their inferiority, before proceeding to wake Mr. J. May in the performance of his weekly duties amongst mental disorders and brain diseases.