

sane, and Mr. Justice Crampton ordered that he be detained in custody during Her Majesty's pleasure. The press gave no attention to this case.

To any one familiar with the details of a large asylum it can only be a cause of mingled wonder and thankfulness that such accidents are not of daily occurrence. With reference to the latter case it is to be observed that the increasing introduction of large dormitories, while conducive to economy alike in construction and management and often valuable in the treatment of dirty habits, nevertheless adds materially to the risk of such accidents. One night attendant for 200 patients, which is the average allowance, cannot of course be held responsible for the safety of every patient. Experience, however, teaches us to our comfort that the average of such acts of violence is singularly small. Still, as in the case of suicides they do occur, and no precautions will entirely prevent their recurrence.

Insane Colonies in France.

"WE have heard much of the advantages and disadvantages of the insane colonies so long established at Gheel; and it seems that the French Government has resolved to introduce the system. The Council General of the Rhone has recently, with the approval of the Minister of the Interior, voted the funds necessary for placing out among families one hundred indigent insane persons whose mental condition does not necessitate their sequestration in an asylum. Upon the recommendation of the chief physician, the indigent insane, recognised as incurable and inoffensive, are to be removed from the Antiquaille asylum, at present overcrowded with patients, and placed out. 'Without doubt,' observes M. Garnier, in the 'Union Médicale,' 'this example will become promptly contagious; and this will be much to be commended, providing that there be constituted a medical and administrative inspection of these patients as in the case of foundlings. Unable to restore their moral health to these poor creatures, we can at least provide for their physical well-being by this family regimen, life in the open air and varied labours, which are more likely to conduce to it than the residence in an asylum. For the safety of the families concerned and the success of the experiment, care must be taken that the persons selected are both incurable and harmless.'—*Medical Times and Gazette, May 28.*

Proposed Supplementary Asylum in the County of Gloucester.

"THE Visitors of the Gloucester County Lunatic asylum having taken into consideration the questions submitted to them by the last Court of Quarter Sessions, and having called to their assistance Dr. Williams, the Consulting-Physician and late Superintendent, and Mr. Toller, the Superintendent of the asylum, report—

"That the County asylum is not capable of accommodating more than thirty male patients beyond its present inmates, and that the female side is full; that no large addition could be made to the present building without entailing great evils and inconveniences not counterbalanced by any adequate economical advantages, since new kitchens, laundry, and other offices would in such case, be required, with the necessity of purchasing many acres of land in a most expensive locality.