

the reception, control, and treatment of inebriates so convicted; and on the order of a Judge of the Supreme Court, or of a District Court Judge, or of the Master in Lunacy, such period may from time to time be extended for further periods not exceeding twelve months each.

Power is given to place these inebriates under immediate medical treatment in any convenient hospital, gaol, or private house, and to direct that the expense of the care, charge, and maintenance of the inebriate be paid out of any property of the inebriate, and to fix the amounts to be so paid, and the amounts so fixed may be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

These directions may be given on orders varied, renewed, or rescinded, as those making the order may think fit.

A notable feature in the Bill is that the attendant shall be authorised to prevent the supply of intoxicants to any inebriate under his charge. Further, any such attendant who neglects to comply with any such direction shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

LANCASHIRE INEBRIATES ACTS BOARD BILL.

Sir J. T. Hibbert presided over an important conference of representatives of county and non-county boroughs held in Preston, on 29th January, for the purpose of considering a Bill for the establishment of a board for carrying out the provisions of the Inebriates Act in Lancashire.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman said he experienced great regret that some time had elapsed in dealing with this subject. They were all acquainted with the difficulties of carrying out the plans which had been put forward for having a combination of the authorities of the county and non-county boroughs, and possibly the delay which had unavoidably arisen might in the end place them in a position to do more good—and that very likely with equal speed—than if they had been left to themselves under the present law, fighting the various central authorities in London in the effort to overcome the difficulties of their position. It would be remembered that at the last meeting resolutions had been adopted in regard to the course of procedure. He trusted that they would find it a successful endeavour to carry out the objects they had in view. He regretted to say that one county borough (Oldham) had declined to join in the movement. He trusted that if the Bill to constitute an Inebriates Acts Board for the County Palatine of Lancaster went through the House successfully—and he did not anticipate opposition from any person or authority; indeed, he hoped the measure would receive the support of the Home Secretary—it would be placed on the Statute Book before many months had passed. Granted that they were successful, it had been suggested that the first meeting of the board to be constituted under the Act should be held in November, but he looked forward to a gathering being held not later than August.

After discussion upon several clauses of the Bill, the following resolution was adopted:—"That this conference approves of the Bill as directed to be amended, and that the County Council proceed to the promotion of the Bill in Parliament." On the suggestion of the Town Clerk of Manchester it was decided to summon the conference after the Bill had left the House of Commons, in order that there might be a further discussion of its clauses if necessary.

The representation of the various authorities interested will, as provided by the Bill, be as follows:—Barrow, Bootle, Burnley, Bury, Rochdale, St. Helens, Stockport, and Wigan, one each; Blackburn, Bolton, Preston, and Salford, two; Liverpool, five; and Manchester, four.

The Bill says the Board will or may require to borrow £50,000 for the purposes of the Bill. It is provided that the term "entire county" shall mean the geographical county of Lancaster, and "county" the administrative county. There shall be in and for the entire county an Inebriates Acts Board, consisting of eighteen representatives of the county and twenty-five representatives of the contributory boroughs, and the Board shall be a body corporate. The eighteen representatives of the county are to be elected at the County Council's quarterly meeting in November, and representatives of contributory boroughs (who may or

may not be members of the Council) shall be elected at the corresponding meeting of the councils of the contributory boroughs. Members of the Board will hold office for twelve months. There is the usual provision as to members being interested in contracts, and a member of the Board elected by the County Council who ceases to be a member of the County Council also ceases to be a member of the Board. Resignation is effected by notification in writing to the clerk of the Board, and casual vacancies are to be filled by the Council by whom the vacating member was originally chosen. A member so chosen shall retain his office only so long as the vacating member would have done. Chairman and vice-chairman are to be elected annually, and the Board has full power in the appointment and payment of clerk and officers. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board shall have and may exercise all the powers of a local authority under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 and 1888, for granting, renewing, transferring, and revoking licenses to keep retreats under those Acts, and the Board shall be the sole local authority for the purposes of those Acts in and for the entire county exclusive of any county borough not at the time a contributory borough, and of any non-county borough which has established a separate inebriate reformatory. The Board may apply to a Secretary of State to certify a reformatory under the Inebriates Act of 1898, and may themselves undertake and contribute to the establishment and maintenance of such institution or institutions, and may acquire lands, erect or provide and maintain and furnish buildings, and generally may do all acts and things necessary or proper for the purpose. The Board may defray the whole or any part of the expenses of detention of any person in any certified inebriate reformatory, and may contribute to retreats to the same extent as the council of a county or borough may under the 1898 Act. The proceeds of the sale of any land acquired by the Board shall go to capital account. All expenses incurred by the Board in the execution of their duties shall be paid out of a fund to be called the Inebriates Board Fund, and all sums acquired by the Board shall be carried to that fund. Should such receipts be insufficient, the deficiency shall be raised by the county, and by each of the contributory boroughs. Before March 1st in each year the Board is to estimate the total amount required to be raised by contributions for the ensuing year, and that amount is to be divided between the county and contributory boroughs in proportion to rateable values. Contributions may be made retrospective, and any difference arising concerning the precept shall be referred to a single arbitrator. The financial year will end on March 31st each year, and a return of receipts and expenditure is to be forwarded annually to the Local Government Board. The Board will have borrowing powers for sums not exceeding in the whole £50,000, repayable as follows:—(1) Money borrowed for the purchase of lands, fifty years; (2) money borrowed for the erection of buildings, thirty years; (3) money borrowed for furniture and fittings, fifteen years; and (4) money borrowed with the sanction of the Local Government Board in such periods as that Board may prescribe.

In 1905 and every subsequent fifth year it shall be lawful for the County Council or for the council of any contributory borough to apply to the Board to increase or diminish its number of representatives, and if the Board fail to settle the number to the satisfaction of the council applying, the matter shall be applied to the Home Secretary. The council of any contributory borough may withdraw itself and its borough from the operation of the Act on six months' notice, and an adjustment of property and debts shall be made within twelve months of the notice of withdrawal by agreement or arbitration. Section 30 provides that nothing in the Act shall affect the right of any non-county borough to establish an independent inebriate reformatory, and in the event of that being done such borough shall not be liable to contribute towards any expenditure incurred by the County Council under the Act of 1898, or by the Board under this Act, so long as the reformatory established by the borough is certified and open for the reception of inebriates, and the rateable value of such non-county borough shall, during such exemption, be deducted from the rateable value of the county, and there shall be reserved to the council of the borough all the powers of a local authority under the Acts of 1879 and 1888. The council of any county borough for the time being not represented on the Board may apply to the Board to be admitted to representation, and the Board may thereupon make an order assigning a representative or representatives to the applicant council on such terms and conditions

as they deem fit. If the applicant borough accept the order the Act shall apply to them and to their borough as if the borough were a contributory borough subject to the order, and the number of representatives on the Board shall be altered accordingly. If the applicant council does not accept the order, then application shall be deemed to have failed, but without prejudice to a future application.

INEBRIATE REFORMATION IN IRELAND.

We learn from the *Dublin Express* that Ennis Gaol has been set apart for the purpose of a State Reformatory in Ireland, and that the Irish Women's Temperance Union is taking steps to establish an Inebriate Home for Women. It is further stated that the Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance is moving the County Councils in this matter.

INEBRIATES IN FRANCE.

Dr. Legrain, of the Ville Evrard Asylum, with Dr. Antheaume, has lately published a report dealing with the treatment of habitual drunkards. "Their opinion of the drunkard is that he is a moral invalid whose cure depends upon hospital rather than prison treatment. Three essential principles should enter into and govern this treatment. They are (1) that the patient should abstain from all intoxicants; (2) that he should be provided with suitable labour; and (3) that he should be subjected to influences conducive to moral reform. In order to secure as far as possible the realisation of the third principle, the report strongly urges that an inebriates' home should never under any circumstances be built to accommodate more than 200 patients, and in a letter addressed to a correspondent, Dr. Legrain expresses his condemnation of large establishments in very definite terms. It is also suggested in the report that the reformatory should be situated in the open country, far away from centres of population, so as to preserve the patients from the temptation to drink. The home itself should realise the conception of an agricultural and industrial colony. Special emphasis is laid upon the physical and moral value of work performed in the open air. The summer months are to be spent in agricultural and gardening operations; in winter the patients are to be trained in various occupations, such as brush-making, locksmiths' work, carpentry, bookbinding, basket-making, smithy work, leather work, etc. This labour should be obligatory upon the inmates. Dr. Legrain and Dr. Antheaume are of opinion that, next to the practice of total abstinence, muscular exercise is the most important factor in the process of mental and physical reform. Each hour of the day should be occupied; and in the evenings lectures, games, etc., should be enjoyed. A central hall should be provided for the realisation of the latter object. The entire separation of the sexes is held to be necessary, but the buildings in which they are to be severally housed ought not to be so placed as to be entirely independent the one of the other. It is suggested that the distance between them might be anything from four to six thousand yards, and that they should be connected by tram lines. By this means the work of the men would supplement that of the women, and *vice versa*. The men would grow garden and field produce, and the women do the washing, cooking, mending, etc., of the home for men. As for the buildings themselves, they should be of small size. An inebriates' colony should be a series of pavilions, and no one of them ought to accommodate more than sixty patients. They should also be designed and placed so as to produce a pleasing effect upon the inmates. Gardens should separate them from each other. Large dormitories are condemned. The general oversight of an inebriates' home should be entrusted to an experienced medical specialist who is not only capable of classifying the patients properly, but who also has the entire work at heart. It is also considered to be essential that total abstinence should be rigorously practised by the officials as well as by the patients. The treatment of an inebriate should be continued for from six to twelve months, and, on his release, it is recommended that he should ally himself with a temperance organisation, so as to assure the continuance of the good influences of the reformatory."