

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.

“That the additional accommodation required should therefore be sought for in the establishment of a separate institution, either as supplementary to the present asylum; or as a distinct second County Lunatic asylum; and it appears desirable that such should not be constructed for less than 200 patients, with the means of increase.

“That upon the question of the economical and other advantages to be looked for in the establishment of an auxiliary institution adapted for the reception of chronic and harmless patients only, the visitors thought it advisable to ascertain (by inquiries sent round) the opinion of the Superintendents of the different County asylums in England before making any recommendation upon the subject. From the information thus obtained, it appears to be the general feeling of those authorities that no scale of diet or mode of living lower than that which prevails in the ordinary County Asylums could be properly applied in the chronic and harmless cases referred to; and since every diet table must be sanctioned by the Lunacy Commissioners before adoption, it is not probable that any saving could be calculated upon under this head. It is in the economy of construction and management of an institution for the chronic and harmless only that saving is to be anticipated, but the prevailing opinion is that much might be saved under these heads. On such grounds the visitors would have been disposed to recommend the establishment of an institution of this description as supplementary to the present County Asylum, which, when relieved from the accumulation of chronic cases, ought to be sufficient to meet the requirements of all first admissions for many years to come. They believe, however, that before any decision is arrived at as to the precise character of the new institution, some further inquiries should be made. They consider that the situation to be selected should, under any circumstances, be such as to afford easy communication with the County Asylum, either by road or railway.

“As long as the inmates of the asylum went on increasing as they had been of late, they would, if necessary, have to provide on the average for thirty additional lunatics every year. The number in the asylum in the year 1857 was 407, and in 1863 595. The Visiting Justices were not entirely satisfied that chronic lunatics required as much food as was required in recent and curable cases. But all the Superintendents of County Asylums, though differing in many other points, were opposed to this view, and in all probability the Commissioners would not, therefore, sanction any lowering of the diet. The proper course now to be taken was for the Deputy Clerk of the Peace to publish a notice that at the next Quarter Sessions a proposition would be made for the appointment of a Committee of Justices to consider the whole subject of additional accommodation for pauper lunatics.”—*The Lancet*, April 9.

Prosecution for keeping an Unlicensed Lunatic Asylum.

Mrs. Sophia Leander, of Zion House, Turnham Green, appeared on her recognizance to answer a charge of misdemeanour for having received into her house two or more lunatics, the said house not being a licensed asylum or duly registered to receive lunatics under the provisions of the 8th and 9th Victoria, cap. 100, sec. 44.

Mr. Montague Smith, Q.C., and Mr. Giffard were counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Serjeant Ballantine and Mr. Robinson for the defence.

The prosecution was at the instance of the Commissioners of Lunacy,