

INDIA.

Bihar and Orissa.—The report for the year 1925 is of special interest as it concerns the opening of the new mental hospital at Kanke (Ranchi) by the transfer of large numbers of patients from the existing institutions at Patna, Berhampore and Dacca—a total number of 1,226. The organization necessary to safely effect the transport of such large numbers can be better imagined when it is stated that the distance, for instance, from Dacca is some 300 miles, and involves a journey of 51 hours by steamer and rail and road.

“A contract was made with the Eastern Bengal Railway to furnish five bogies fitted with prison bars and with sitting accommodation to suit my requirements under my instructions, all latrine doors being removed and a continuous corridor constructed running throughout the entire length of the five bogies. Extra locking arrangements and alarm signals were also provided. A similar contract was entered into with the Bengal Nagpur Railway to supply similarly improvised bogies on the narrow gauge.

“Patients were taken from the hospital to the steamer in motor cars. All the excited cases were securely accommodated in specially constructed cubicles on the boat and seats were allotted to the patients according to the nature of their diseases, and they were well looked after by the accompanying hospital and police staff.”

Great credit is due to Capt. Dhunjibhoy and those who assisted him, in that the transport of this large number of patients was carried out without hitch or mishap.

Since the opening of the new mental hospital there has been a considerable amount of sickness, chiefly malaria (106 cases), dysentery and other intestinal diseases—much of the malaria was undoubtedly introduced amongst the transfers from Berhampore, where it had existed in epidemic form for the last six months.

No table is given showing the forms of mental disease amongst the admissions, but it is to be noted that amongst the ætiological factors in the cases admitted to Kanke during the year, excessive use of alcohol and gunja was regarded as responsible in 101 and 143 cases respectively.

With the closing of the mental hospitals at Berhampore and Dacca only two mental hospitals now remain in Bengal, the observation ward at Bhowanipore, and the mental ward at the Albert Victor Leper Asylum at Gobra (Khulna). All certified patients are now sent to Ranchi, where the climate is better, and the facilities for treatment are in advance of what was possible in the old asylums.

EGYPT.

Abbasiya and Khanka.—These two hospitals, which provide accommodation for the whole of Egypt, are built for a total of 2,143 patients, but have been compelled during the year 1925 to maintain a daily average of 2,641. The number of cases treated during the year was 4,024 and the admissions were 1,406—a proportion of admissions to accommodation only comparable to that of the Syrian Mental Hospital at Asfuriyeh. Inasmuch as both these mental hospitals are at Cairo, considerable distances have to be