

#### AN INEBRIATES' HOME FOR GLASGOW.

The mansion-house at Girgenti, near Irvine, which has been acquired by the Glasgow Corporation as an inebriates' home, has undergone considerable alteration and repairs. The home, which was purchased at a cost of about £7000, is to be managed by a committee selected from members of the Glasgow Town Council. It is expected that the treatment of patients may extend from three months to two years, and they will have employment in the garden and farm, as well as following their former trades, while work will be provided for women in the laundry and dairy. Girgenti lies in a nice spot four miles distant from the nearest town, consequently there will be no temptation offered to patients.

We understand that twelve persons—eleven women and one man—were in the end of December remitted to the Sheriff at Glasgow to be dealt with under the Inebriates' Act.

#### THE TREATMENT OF INEBRIATES.

A conference of representatives of societies for the aid of discharged prisoners, managers of voluntary homes for inebriates, and governors and chaplains of prisons, was held at Birmingham. In the course of a discussion upon homes for inebriates the Rev. G. P. Merrick, speaking on behalf of the Prison Commissioners, is reported to have said that he was at liberty to state that the Government was prepared to provide a prison building for the reception of inebriates, but they had left the matter to the discretion of the county councils and other local authorities. Those bodies, however, had not taken up the matter to the extent which was anticipated. The law would certainly step in if the local authorities did not make the necessary provision.—*Times*, November 2nd, 1900.

#### ELMIRA REFORMATORY, NEW YORK STATE.

The New York Correspondent of the *Lancet* states that in this large reformatory there has been within the past year and a half a complete change in management with a corresponding somewhat radical alteration in the methods pursued. The twenty-fifth annual report of the board of managers has recently been presented to the New York State Legislature, and referring to "discipline" the report says:—"Since the statement in the last annual report that flogging had been abandoned at Elmira some sincere friends of the reformatory have expressed the fear that its discipline would deteriorate. The board has not shared that fear." The maintenance of the educational system by the present board has been seriously questioned by those who profess to see in the withdrawal of Mr. Brockway the first step towards the destruction of the fabric which he has laboriously created. The board finds in this system much to admire and uphold, something to criticise and modify, and something to condemn. The gross number of inmates who have been on the books during the past twelve months is 2050, of whom 666 were received during that period and 774 were dismissed, producing a daily average of 1365. The efficient control of so large a reformatory is an undertaking which will tax the brains and energies of the most active and intelligent superintendent and staff. It remains to be seen how the new methods will work. The result will be a matter of much interest to philanthropists everywhere.

#### A NEW THEORY OF HOMICIDE.

Apropos of the assassination of King Humbert, says the *Gaulois*, a German statistician, who is also an influential member of the Berlin Society for the Protection of Animals, tries to prove that those nations who love animals the most are those least inclined to commit the crime of homicide. In support of his contention he says that in England and Ireland there are only 6 murderers for every million inhabitants, in Germany 11, in Belgium 14, in France 16, in Austria 23, in Hungary 67, in Spain 83, and in Italy 95. These figures correspond with the consideration of the various peoples for dumb beasts. In no country of the world, he adds, is the cruelty of the common people towards animals so great as in Italy, although it may be true that the warm southern blood accounts for much in the way of murder.