

to this number my colleagues attended upwards of thirty cases occurring among the families of artisans living outside the asylum.

Fifty-seven attendants, thirty-eight artisans, and nearly one hundred of the patients were under treatment. I had a slight attack myself, both assistant medical officers, engineer, storekeeper, housekeeper, farm bailiff, and head laundress being also sufferers to a greater or less degree. I called in extra medical assistance and engaged four trained nurses, who looked after a large number of cases in the infectious hospital.

The disease was generally very sudden in its onset, sometimes being preceded by rigors. The most prominent symptoms were vomiting, diarrhoea, pains in back and limbs, high temperature, reaching  $103^{\circ}$  and  $104^{\circ}$  in a few hours, a crisis often accompanied by profuse perspiration; while among other symptoms may be noted coryza, pains at the back of the eyeballs, headache, sleeplessness, slight delirium, and transitory hallucinations. The vomited matter generally contained bile, and a marked icteric tinge was often present. A slight desquamation was noticed in many cases where the temperature was high. The average duration of fever was about seven days, the patients being very prostrate and weak, and in some convalescence was very protracted, pains in the limbs, general weakness, and tendency to neuralgia retarding recovery. In some cases diarrhoea was entirely absent, the disease being of the ordinary type. [*Communicated by Dr. Miller.*]

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#### RESIGNATIONS.

We regret to notice that, on account of ill-health, Dr. Greene has resigned his position as Medical Superintendent of the Berry Wood Asylum, Northampton; but it is some consolation to know that his services have been highly appreciated by the Committee, and that they have set forth the facts and their conclusions in a succinct and well-reasoned document.

The Committee states that "Dr. Greene was appointed in 1878 to the office which he has since held with such distinction to himself and advantage to the county of Northampton. At that time the total number of patients in the asylum was 523, and the cost of maintenance per head per week was 10s. 6d. Since his appointment there has been an increase in the number of patients to 900. In addition to this it must be borne in mind that by gradually decreasing stages the cost of maintenance of patients per head per week has been materially reduced from the above-mentioned sum of 10s. 6d. to the sum at which it now stands of 7s. 6d. Taking the present number of patients as a fair average, this is equal to an annual saving of £5460. The Committee have thus been enabled by the excellence of the management to return to the county a sum of money in aid of the rates, which at the close of 1896 (and which has since been added to) amounted to no less a sum than £9803, while at the same time the Committee had in hand a balance at the bank to the credit of the Building and Repairs Fund Account of £4741 10s. 4d. There can be no question that the Committee have mainly to thank Dr. Greene for the administration which has led to such a conspicuous financial success. The above *résumé* of the results of Dr. Greene's service cannot be concluded without reference to another matter. For nearly twenty years, although many additions to the asylum and asylum buildings have been made, and notably a Fever and Infectious Diseases Hospital, a children's block (costing about £3500) and about fifteen residences for the staff have been built, and also a well (costing about £3000) has been provided, and sundry purchases of land have been made, without the county being called upon to pay any sum towards the same; moreover not one penny has ever been expended by the Committee on architect's fees, Dr. Greene having prepared the designs and superintended the buildings entirely by himself. He has also so managed that no demand has ever been made upon the county rate for maintenance and repairs. Dr. Greene has now, on account of ill-health, tendered his resignation to the

Committee, who are by the Act bound to give him a superannuation allowance based on his present salary and emoluments. Dr. Greene, previous to his appointment at Berry Wood, was for upwards of ten years a medical officer in an asylum; since that time he has for nineteen years and a half been Superintendent of Berry Wood Asylum. To the great regret of the Committee, it has now become their duty to consider what should be the amount of the superannuation allowance to be granted to Dr. Greene, on the basis of the scheme settled by the County Council in the year 1890. The Committee have unanimously decided to grant a superannuation allowance of £850 per annum."

Although the County Council were not unanimous in regard to the amount of the pension granted, there were apparently but three dissentients. The very handsome remarks made by those who had long experience of Dr. Greene's services amply compensate for this very small fly in the ointment. We join with the Committee in their expression of cordial thanks and approval on his retiring from public life.

We regret to note from the same report that Dr. S. A. K. Strahan has resigned his position as Assistant Medical Officer, and that his length of service did not entitle him to any retiring allowance. It is to be hoped that Dr. Strahan will continue his work in reference to mental diseases, and that he will not be lost to our specialty.

It should also be recorded that Mr. Mitchell, the head attendant of the same asylum, tendered his resignation after nearly twenty years' service, and was granted a superannuation allowance of £80 per annum.

#### THE AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION.

Sir William Broadbent kindly permitted the annual meeting of the After-Care Association to be held at his house on 31st January, and took the chair himself. He made a few introductory remarks. The report was read by the secretary, and Dr. Savage, the Archdeacon of Westminster, Dr. White, and the Rev. E. S. Hilliard respectively moved, seconded, and supported the adoption of the report. The election of the officers and council was proposed by Mr. Deputy White and seconded by Dr. Norman Kerr, and carried unanimously, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Lady Broadbent, which was proposed by Dr. Rayner and seconded by the Rev. Henry Hawkins, the originator of the Association. Two facts were universally acknowledged by the speakers: one that the year ending December 31st, 1897, has been the most prosperous and useful in the history of the Association; the other that the difficulties in providing employment for convalescents from mental disease are far in excess of those connected with any other form of redemption work. People more willingly employ the criminal discharged from prison than a cured lunatic. The need of the help granted by the Association is intense, and the form of help most beneficial is that which enables the patient to recover his strength in a convalescent home, and then gives him work. As one speaker remarked, "it is enough to drive anyone mad again to be discharged from the asylum, where he has had every comfort, to face the world penniless, dependent on his own exertions, and yet to have the door of so many occupations shut in his face on account of the nature of his recent illness." During the last twelve months 147 cases passed before the council, and the maintenance fund reached £561, a higher sum than it has ever done. The boarding out of convalescents in cottage homes in the country has been carried out with increasing success, and there is need of additional homes for this purpose. Higher rates are now paid per week for each boarder, and this has proved a wise expenditure. The Council has decided to appoint local secretaries, and a number of ladies and gentlemen have signified their willingness to act as such. This will save considerably in postage and working expenses. More convenient offices have been secured in the Church House, and efforts are being