

following event or by suggestion from psychiatrists at First Aid Stations. The conflict in these cases is often very superficial.

JOHN GIFFORD.

A Case of Systematised Delusions of Persecution, recovering after three years. [Sur un Cas de Délire de Persécution, disparu au bout de trois ans.] (L'Encephale, February 10th, 1920.) Antheaume, A., and Trepsat, L.

This man, æt. 32, single, a keen mountaineer and "a good sport," of an unassuming disposition and with none of the paranoiac's pride and disdain, was, after serving at the Marne, exempted on his friends' appeal, to resume his old employment at a smelting works. There he at once became excited: voices accused him of skulking; he was to be shot; he could hear the gendarmes coming up the stairs. Soon he was of exalted birth, a substituted child, the victim of a plot. His persecutor ("the man who had taken his place") was continually watching him, following him, threatening him, calling him a traitor and a coward, and accusing him of unspeakable crimes. After fourteen months in the asylum, being now calmer though still very deluded, he was discharged to the care of his mother. He made determined efforts to rejoin the army, but was repeatedly rejected on account of his medical history, till, with the help of a recommendation from Dr. Roubinovitch, he got into the ranks of the artillery. He obtained some promotion, and was sent to the front. When on leave, he went to consult his old asylum physicians. All this time the delusions and hallucinations continued very active, though he "knew how to elude" his persecutor. At last, sudden great responsibilities, amid the carnage of the retreat from the Aisne, cured him, and he has been well ever since. From this case the authors conclude that the prognosis in systematised delusional insanity with voices is not so hopeless as is generally supposed. They tell us to note the therapeutic value of responsibility, and to beware of keeping such patients too long in asylums.

SYDNEY J. COLE.

4. Treatment of Insanity.

The German Institute of Psychiatric Research. (Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis., June, 1920.) Kraepelin, Emil.

In this paper, which appears to have been written while the war was still in progress, Kraepelin alludes to some of the many psychiatric problems urgently calling for investigation, points out that each new discovery infallibly raises a number of new questions which no one can foresee, and remarks on the inadequacy of the existing facilities for research—now supplemented by a new research institute. Even under the limitations imposed by the war, the funds necessary for establishing this were raised in less than two years. A temporary home was found for it in the Psychiatric Institute at Munich, which has numerous laboratories. Later it will come into close relations with a new admission hospital for the insane, which Munich proposes to erect. For a building of its own, the institute has a site already granted by that city. It

began its work on April 1st, 1917, starting with five departments, three being devoted to the various branches of anatomical work, one to serology, and one to demographic-genealogical research. A department of chemistry, and one of psychology, will probably be added. The heads of departments enjoy complete independence, and have the same rights as other Bavarian officials. As the research institute is affiliated with the university, they are all members of its teaching staff, but their university work is subsidiary. Scientific research and the gaining of collaborators are their exclusive field of activity. To induce young and ambitious men to work in the research institute, provision has been made for a number of laboratory places, and more are projected. It has been suggested to all such corporations in the various German States as have to provide for the care of the insane that they should pay an annual rental of 2,000 marks per laboratory table and appoint suitable candidates. In spite of the burdens of the war, twenty such corporations have already agreed. This ensures the healthy growth of the institute, and brings it into most desirable relations with asylums. The latter will derive helpful suggestion from the scientific work done in the institute. The founders, and the Kaiser-Wilhelmsgesellschaft (which grants an annual subsidy), will also have the right to appoint candidates. For the necessary library, which ought to be as complete as possible and include all auxiliary sciences, the gift of the very valuable collection of the late Geheimrat Lähr-Zohlendorf supplies an excellent nucleus. For a research institute on the large scale, more money is needed, and this the State can never be counted upon to provide, hampered as it is by tax considerations. Private endowment must be secured; and possibly this method of founding institutions is better for their healthy growth, as it gives them greater latitude.

SYDNEY J. COLE.

Note on Lunacy Administration in Ireland with Suggestions for Reform.
(*Dublin Journ. of Med. Science, June, 1920.*) Leeper, R. R.

Existing Irish lunacy legislation dates from the early Victorian era. The late Inspectors of Asylums reported on its defects to the Government in 1895, but nothing resulted. Most regrettable is the loss to Ireland of the Mental Deficiency Bill. Ireland in 1906 possessed 25,415 mental defective persons outside of asylums, and of these 66 *per cent.* were in need of care and rational management, as against 44·45 *per cent.* in England, and 34·57 in Scotland. All efforts to have Ireland included in the Bill failed. The Irish division of the Medico-Psychological Association sent a resolution to the Chief Secretary for Ireland in November, 1919, suggesting that in the appointment of the Irish Public Health Council representation should be given on that Council to that branch of the profession specially concerned with the treatment of insanity in Ireland. The Public Health Council was set up without a representative of the asylum or lunacy service—either legal, medical or lay—being placed upon it. It is understood that this Council is to deal with the question of asylum administration! A deputation of the Irish division of the Association met the Council and placed their views before them in the form of a memorandum drawn up by the most experienced alienists in Ireland.