

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.

The writer some years ago pointed out the desirability of trying to limit the obvious causes working in Ireland which tend to produce insanity, crime, and degeneracy. Foremost amongst these is the continued and wilful neglect of the care and control of the feeble-minded. An effort ought, too, to be made to set up some form of specialised colony for the treatment of epileptics. Legislative changes must be initiated by those whose life interest has been the betterment of the insane, and whose experience and knowledge entitle them to deal with so difficult and specialised a subject. C. W. FORSYTH.

Luminal in Epilepsy. [*Un Traitement efficace de l'Épilepsie: la Phényl-éthylmalonylurée ou Luminal.*] (*L'Encephale*, July 10th, 1920.) Maillard, G.

Those who discussed this paper at the Société de Psychiatrie of Paris agreed that luminal is very efficacious as a preventive of major fits, but appear to have spoken chiefly of its aptness to produce mental disturbance—alteration of character, irascibility, impulsiveness, excitement and violence. Rogues de Fursac said that at the Ville-Evrard asylum Ducosté had observed these effects, good and bad, even with minimal doses, never exceeding 15 cgm., and in some instances a mental disturbance really grave—even delirium. Maillard showed that abrupt discontinuance of the drug is apt to provoke numerous fits.

SYDNEY J. COLE.

5. Pathology.

The Histopathologic Findings in Dementia Præcox. (*The Amer. Journ. of Ins.*, January, 1920.) Rawlings, E.

The research occupied nine years. Precautions to prevent *post-mortem* changes and the inclusion of cases involving psychotic disease processes other than the one under review were as complete as possible. Any case conceivably open to doubt was eliminated. Only cases with a clear præcox history were employed. And of 52 cases minutely worked out only 12 were made the basis of this article. The 40 remaining cases gave sufficiently clear indication of the pathological changes which the author regards as typical of this psychosis, although in this larger series masked by changes pathognomonic of other disease conditions. The areas investigated were usually the frontals, centrals, paracentrals, parietals, temporals and cerebellar; the staining methods and technique employed are indicated; the histories, clinical abstracts, and causes of death are outlined; the pathological findings for each case are well detailed and diagrams are appended. The following groups of cases were excluded:

(1) All over 60 years of age, to avoid senile changes other than Alzheimer's; (2) long-standing mixed manic-depressives; (3) paranoid involuntions, possibly due to chronic diseases; (4) imbecilities with frequent disturbance. Of cases under sixty, 10 were rejected for cortical arteriosclerosis (only 1, however, showing nerve-cell devastations). The series of 12 is advanced as probably presenting a disease entity. Ten showed macroscopical atrophies, chiefly frontal: 1 with heredity