

Ireland official letters are usually written in the third person. But the whole of these dignified proceedings suggests too great respect for antiquity. In all modern theatrical performances the farce comes first and then the serious piece. Why is this order reversed in Connaught? Why should this comic *bonne bouche* follow instead of preceding the much more serious pieces that have lately been played on the same stage?

#### LUNACY LEGISLATION.

The following is the text of the Bill to amend the Lunacy Acts introduced into the House of Commons on May 18th by the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General:

A BILL to amend the Lunacy Acts.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. *Visits to licensed houses.*—Notwithstanding anything in section one hundred and ninety-one of the Lunacy Act, 1890 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), the Commissioners may by order direct that until further order any licensed house, whether licensed by them or by justices, and not authorised by the licence to receive more than ten patients, may be visited by one Commissioner.

2. *Temporary care of incipient lunatics.*—(1) If a medical practitioner certifies that a person is suffering from mental disease, but that the disease is not confirmed, and that it is expedient, with a view to his recovery, that he be placed under the care of a person whose name and address are stated in the certificate for a period therein stated, not exceeding *six months*, then during that period the provisions of section three hundred and fifteen of the principal Act shall not apply.

(2) The certificate must not be signed by the person under whose care the patient is to be placed.

(3) Where a medical practitioner signs any such certificate he shall, within one clear day after signing it, send a copy of it to the Commissioners, and the Commissioners may visit the patient to whom the certificate refers.

(4) The person who receives a patient under any such certificate shall, within one clear day after receiving the patient, give notice to the Commissioners of his reception, and if the patient dies, or the residence of the person receiving him is changed, within the period mentioned in the certificate, shall within two clear days give notice of the death or change of residence to the Commissioners.

(5) He shall also, within two clear days after the expiration of the period mentioned in the certificate, or if he ceases to have the care of the patient at an earlier date then within two clear days after that earlier date, send a report to the Commissioners stating whether the patient recovered, and, if not, in what manner he was dealt with when the person making the report ceased to have the care of him under the certificate.

(6) If default is made in sending any notice or report required by this section, the person in default shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and be liable to a penalty not exceeding *fifty pounds*.

(7) No person shall under this section receive more than one patient at the same time.

(8) After the expiration of the period mentioned in the certificate another certificate under this section in respect of the same patient shall not be given within *two years* from the date of the expiration.

3. *Amendment of s. 116 (1) (d) of principal Act.*—Section one hundred and sixteen of the principal Act (which relates to the administrative powers of the Judge in Lunacy) shall have effect as if in paragraph (d) of sub-section one the words "or arrest of mental development" were inserted after the word "age."

4. *Jurisdiction of Masters in Lunacy.*—Subject to rules of court, the jurisdiction of the Judge in Lunacy (including power to make orders in lunacy and such orders as can be made in the Chancery Division of the High Court) may be exercised by

the Masters, and every order of a Master in that behalf shall take effect unless annulled or varied on appeal in manner provided by such rules.

**B. Short title, construction, and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Lunacy Act, 1904, and shall be construed as one with the Lunacy Acts, 1890 and 1891, and this Act and the Lunacy Acts, 1890 and 1891, may be cited together as the Lunacy Acts, 1890 to 1904.

(2) This Act shall come into operation on the *first day of January Nineteen hundred and five*.

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#### CORRESPONDENCE.

From Dr. R. S. STEWART, Glamorgan County Asylum.

Without entering into a discussion of Dr. Mercier's views on the subject of stress, I wish to point out that my use of the word is clearly defined in my paper on "Wages, Lunacy, and Crime" in the January number of the *JOURNAL*, in which I speak of "stress in the ordinary sense of the term," and that the quotation "insanity is, and ever will be, the product of two factors, stress and heredity" is from an article on puerperal insanity, by Dr. Robert Jones, in the *American Journal of Insanity* for April, 1903.

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#### ASYLUM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association was held on May 17th, at 11, Chandos Street, under the presidency of Sir James Crichton Browne. The meeting was numerously attended. The report shows that there has been a considerable falling off in the number of ordinary members, who now number 3696 as compared with 4902 in 1902. This decrease is due to the increase of the subscription.

The distribution of medals awarded for long and meritorious nursing services in asylums was made by the President, viz. gold medal to Mr. W. Headon, Devon County Asylum; silver medals to Mr. J. Alexander, Notts County Asylum, Miss E. Atkins, Caterham Asylum, and Miss E. Gribble, Holloway Sanatorium.

The financial statement shows that the receipts had increased, and that the balance at the end of the year was £86 15s. 3d.

The Homes of Rest Fund had made grants of £55 to twenty-one applicants.

Sir James Crichton Browne, who has acted as president for the past seven years, retires, and is succeeded by Sir John Batty Tuke.

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#### CHALFONT COLONY CHRONICLE.

The first number of this new periodical has appeared, and gives promise of being a successful and useful publication.

The history of the formation of the colony, illustrated by a portrait of Mr. Passmore Edwards, constitutes the *pièce de résistance* of this number.

The editors apparently would be desirous of receiving contributions and news from other colonies, and to make it a vehicle of communication for all epileptics who are in single cure houses or institutions.

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#### THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Dr. James Russell, of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, has been appointed by the American Medico-Psychological Association a delegate to attend our next Annual Meeting.