

PLASMON.

This preparation has now been tried in several asylums, and we hear that good results have been gained by its use. It is, essentially, the separated casein of milk, and is presented as a dry powder which forms a gelatinous mass with water. Professor Virchow has made experiments showing that plasmon retains powerful nourishing qualities, while it remains practically tasteless and colourless. From independent chemical analysis it is a substance of distinct value, and we hope to present our readers with some account of the beneficial results of administering it to the insane.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Dr. BEVERIDGE SPENCE.

In reply to your question, in eight of my new dormitories—accommodating about 160 persons—I have electric push buttons placed and marked “To communicate with the night attendant push this button,” and the bell connected with the push is placed at the station where the night attendant or nurse sits when not walking about, and this station is so situated that a bell ringing at night must be heard by the night attendant or nurse at any point of his or her round. I may say that although I have had these pushes provided in some of the dormitories for about six years I have never heard that they have been used—or abused.

BURNTWOOD ASYLUM.

August 31st, 1900.

From Dr. MOODY.

Having been struck by the isolation of patients between the hours 8—10.30 p.m. in dormitories which are only visited periodically by the night attendants, I brought the matter under the notice of the Committee at the end of 1895, and obtained sanction for the provision of an electric alarm.

In every dormitory where there is no stationary night attendant a push button is provided. This, when used, rings a bell in the entrance hall and indicates in which ward attention is required. The bed nearest the button is occupied by the most sensible patient in the dormitory, who not only gives an alarm when necessary, but prevents the bell being rung without reason.

The alarm has on several occasions been of service in cases of sudden illness or disturbances, and has quite justified the outlay involved.

After 10.30 p.m. the attendants' rooms, which adjoin dormitories and which have windows in the division walls, are occupied, and the electric alarm not being required is disconnected for the remainder of the night.

LONDON COUNTY ASYLUM, CANEHILL;

September 15th, 1900.

From Dr. CECIL F. BEADLES.

There is a general opinion amongst the Jewish community that insanity is abnormally prevalent in the race. This idea seems to have been derived from Prussian statistics. But is this so for Jews in this country?

With a view of obtaining an answer to this interesting, and I venture to think important, question, I have sought information at certain asylums as to the number of Jewish inmates therein, on the two dates December 31st, 1898, and June 30th, 1900. The former date is chosen as one on which a comparison may be made with the non-Jewish insane of the country; the latter as the number of Jewish insane existing at the present time.

Knowing that the Jews in this country, are almost entirely located in a few of the larger towns, it seemed useless to ask these questions of many of the provincial asylums. But as it is possible that some institutions where Jewish patients are received have been overlooked, I shall be glad if the Superintendents of these will communicate with me on the subject, to enable me to obtain as complete returns as possible.

Perhaps I may be allowed this opportunity to thank all who have assisted me in this inquiry.

COPY OF CIRCULAR LETTER.

Will you kindly give me your assistance in an attempt to find out the amount of insanity that exists amongst the Jewish population of this country?

As no figures appear to exist, the only available means is to obtain a return of the number of Jewish patients, received into each asylum for the insane, throughout the Kingdom.

I trust you will help me in this matter by returning the annexed form after filling in the figures asked.

(1) The number of patients in the — Asylum on June 30th, 1900.

	Total Insane.		Jewish Insane.	
	Pauper.	Private.	Pauper.	Private.
Males				
Females				

(2) As there are only comparative figures obtainable at present for the year 1898, both as regards the estimated Jewish population of England, and the amount of insanity in the country, I should be glad, if it is possible, to have the number of Hebrews present in the Asylum on December 31st, 1898.

	Pauper.	Private.
Jews		
Jewesses		

COLNEY HATCH ASYLUM,
September 4th, 1900.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM HENRY LOWE, F.R.S.

Dr. W. H. Lowe, F.R.S., died at Wimbledon on the 26th August, in his 86th year. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh, at which he graduated in 1840. In that year he was admitted to the membership of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, having previously taken the membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Dr. Lowe held several professional appointments in Edinburgh, among others those of President of the Royal Medical Society, and President of the Royal Botanic Society. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1846, and President in 1873. At the meeting of the British Medical Association in Edinburgh in 1875, he gave the opening address in the section of Psychology, over which he presided. Dr. Lowe was for many years associated with the late Dr. John Smith in the management of Saughton Hall Private Asylum, near Edinburgh, residing at Balgreen, the garden and grounds of which show permanent evidences of his skill and taste as a botanist. He was also a keen entomologist and amassed a large and interesting collection of the Lepidoptera of the district. In 1875 he settled at Wimbledon Park. He was the author of 'Jaundice from Non-elimination, together with remarks on the Pathological Condition and Chemical Nature of the Bile.' Dr. Lowe was twice married, and is survived by a widow and family.

LANDON CARTER GRAY, M.D.

Dr. Landon Carter Gray, who died in the May of this year, was born at New York in 1850. Soon after he graduated he devoted special attention to neurology and psychiatry, and at a comparatively early age he attained a leading position in his profession. He was elected President of the American Neurological Association, of the New York Neurological Society, and of several other learned societies. For a number of years he was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons. He was the author of a treatise on mental and nervous diseases and of many valuable contributions to medical literature. Dr. Gray took a deep interest in the study of medical jurisprudence and, as a medico-legal expert, he is said to have been described by a distinguished judge as the very model of what a medical witness ought to be.