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post for five years, Mr. Moxhay commenced his practice at Exeter, was shortly afterwards appointed surgeon to the Royal Berks Hospital. He was one of the Vice-Presidents of the Reading Pathological Society, and was a careful and skilful operator and a much esteemed general practitioner. He was also an occasional contributor to the medical journals. Mr. Moxhay was son of Mr. Richard Helliings Moxhay, of Exeter, and married in March, 1856. He leaves a family of seven daughters, four of whom are married.

ROBERT LARGE BAKER, M.D., Leamington.

Dr. R. L. Baker died at his residence, Barham House, Leamington, on May 21st, in his sixty-fifth year. In falling health for some years, he continued his activity in public work until about five months ago, when he had an apoplectic seizure, after which he gradually sank. Dr. Baker, who was a native of Essex, practised as a surgeon in Birmingham for over twenty years. About fifteen years ago, he retired from practice, and removed to Leamington. In the latter town, he was an active supporter of local charities, and an energetic member of the committee of the Warneford Hospital. As a member of the Jephson Gardens Committee, his botanical knowledge was of great public service. He also took an active part, as a director for many years, in the management of the Birmingham Medical Benevolent Society. Dr. Baker was educated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1841, and was admitted to Fellowship in 1861. He proceeded to the degree of M.D. in the University of St. Andrews' in 1866.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

JOINT COUNTIES ASYLUM, CARMARTHEN.

The twentieth annual report of this asylum is very satisfactory. Dr. Hearder makes some pertinent remarks respecting the Criminal Lunatics Act of 1884. He points out that it makes no change in the place of their custody, and that county asylums are still regarded as fit places for them. Again, it fails to distinguish (except financially) between the habitual criminal who becomes insane, and the lunatic who happens to commit a crime as the result of his malady. All this it does to make provision for the relief of the local rates, and for the patient's maintenance out of moneys provided by Parliament, so long as he is a criminal lunatic. The habitual criminal becoming insane after his sentence is thus provided for, as Dr. Hearder observes, only during the term of his sentence, at the expiration of which he becomes an ordinary pauper, chargeable to the local rates. On the other hand, the criminal who commits an offence, and is found while waiting trial to be insane, remains a criminal lunatic until recovery or death, and such is provided for by the moneys of Parliament.

On the dietary of the asylum, Dr. Hearder's remarks are of great practical importance, and merit transcription.

"It is now five years since you ordered the disuse of beer as an article of diet, and there is no longer reason to regret the change which has been in every respect satisfactory. When first discontinued, I was able to quote only one county asylum where beer was not included in the dietary; now, in at least half the asylums in the country its use has been discontinued, and this proportion will doubtless steadily increase. In the same year, (1879) it was reported to you that 'the use of wine and spirits in the management of disease has now been practically discontinued in your asylum for a period of three years;' and the further experience since acquired of the non-alcoholic treatment has confirmed me in the belief of its efficiency. There can be no doubt that this belief is steadily and irresistibly gaining ground with the medical profession. Evidence in support of this statement may be difficult to obtain as regards the body of general practitioners, and reliable statistics could scarcely be procured; but, as regards asylum-practice, it admits of easy and full proof. In the report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, published in 1876, we find that the average weekly cost per head for 'wines, spirits, and porter' in county asylums was £1.6d., and in borough asylums £1.4d.; and in their report for 1883, the average weekly cost for 'wines, spirits, and porter,' in county asylums was £1.6d., and in borough asylums £1.4d. Thus, in eight years, the consumption of 'wines, spirits, and porter' as medical extras has decreased in county asylums by 50 per cent., and in borough asylums by 75 per cent. In your asylum, these medical extras have been almost entirely replaced by boggin and milk, at an average cost of £1 per head per week. The change has not affected any money-saving, but it has placed alcohol by the most easily digested of foods, our types of nutrition."

SUSSEX COUNTY ASYLUM, HAYWARD'S HEATH.

It must be a satisfaction to the ratepayers that the Committee of Visitors of this asylum are able to state, in the annual report for 1884, that, notwithstanding long entertained fears, the condition of the house warrants the postponement of the question of the provision of a second asylum for Sussex.

There has been a diminution of the admissions, and a slight increase in the number of out-door cases; and the number of vacant beds is forty-seven in the main building, and twenty in the Sanatorium. It is noteworthy that, among the discharges, there are thirty-two patients handed over to the care of relatives as chronic harmless cases. This is a mode of relieving asylums to which Dr. Williams has for long attached great importance, and has carried out as far as is consistent with the good of the patient and the safety of the friends; at least, we presume so. Beyond the bald statement, however, of these figures, Dr. Williams does not say anything. He might have expanded a paragraph or two in informing the reader of the report whether inconvenience has or has not arisen to the friends by the return of their insane relatives. It is conceivable that the latter may be retained at home, and yet the advantage gained to all except the ratepayers. One would also like to know whether they receive parish relief, and if so, how much. Greatly to the credit of the asylum, no suicide occurred till last year since 1877. The patient was not supposed to be actively suicidal, and there would appear to be no ground for blame. Why the jury requested the coroner to draw the attention of the Commissioners to "the circumstances of the case" is not explained.

CORK NORTH INFIRMARY.

From the annual report, it appears that, during 1884, there were 880 intern patients and 30,003 extern patients treated in this hospital; while the cases of accident and emergency numbered 5,385. It is a subject of regret that a debt of nearly £500 presses on the institution, but it is not expected that the institution will have to incur any additional expense. The report speaks of the charitable and unremitting exertions of the officers of the asylum, and the public will contribute the necessary funds, so as to carry on the necessary work unimpaired. A sum of £822 was received in legacies, of which £380 was invested; but this is an uncertain source of income, and what is urgently re-
THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY RETURN.

The quarterly return of the Registrar-General, which has just been issued, comprises the births and deaths registered in England and Wales during the first quarter of the current year, and the marriages in the last three months of 1884. The marriage-rate showed a marked decline from that recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous year; and, with one exception, was lower than the rate in the same quarter of any of the ten preceding years. The birth-rate and the death-rate were also below the average. The mean temperature exceeded the average, and the weather was, on the whole, favourable to the public health. During the first quarter of 1885 the births of 239,935 children were registered in England and Wales, and the deaths of 38,278 persons. The birth-rate, although showing an increase upon the exceptionally low rate in the corresponding quarter of last year, was below the average rate in the first quarter of the ten preceding years. The rate of mortality among the urban population of the country, estimated at more than sixteen millions of persons, was equal to 22.3 per 1,000; in the remaining chiefly rural population of about ten millions and three quarters, the rate was 21.0. The death-rate was considerably lower, while the rural rate slightly exceeded the average rates in the corresponding period of the ten preceding years. The death-rate last quarter at all ages, was 4.4 per cent. below the average; that among infants showed a decline of 1.1 per cent.; that among children and adults, between one and sixty years, a decrease of 7.9 per cent.; while the rate of death from all causes in the two preceding weeks was 15.7 in Cardiff, 15.0 in Birmingham, 14.5 in Liverpool, 14.2 in London, 13.9 in Sheffield, 13.8 in Leeds, 13.8 in Manchester, 13.6 in Bradford, 13.5 in Birmingham, 13.5 in Manchester, 13.4 in Leeds, and 13.4 in Liverpool. The birth-rate registered in England and Wales during the quarter under notice exceeded the deaths by 84,104; this represents the natural increase of the population during the period.

From returns issued by the Board of Trade, it appears that during the first three months of this year, 37,686 emigrants sailed from the various ports of the United Kingdom at which emigration returns are stationed; of these, 20,201 were English, 3,258 Scotch, and 6,609 Irish. The proportions of emigrants to a million of the population in the three divisions of the United Kingdom were 760 from England, 829 from Scotland, and 1,344 from Ireland. The deaths of 147,911 persons were registered in England and Wales, equal to an annual rate of 21.8 per 1,000 of the population; this death-rate, although showing an increase upon the exceptionally low rate in the corresponding quarter of last year, was below the average rate in the first quarter of the ten preceding years. The rate of mortality among the urban population of the country, estimated at more than sixteen millions of persons, was equal to 22.3 per 1,000; in the remaining chiefly rural population of about ten millions and three quarters, the rate was 21.0. The death-rate was considerably lower, while the rural rate slightly exceeded the average rates in the corresponding period of the ten preceding years. The death-rate last quarter at all ages, was 4.4 per cent. below the average; that among infants showed a decline of 1.1 per cent.; that among children and adults, between one and sixty years, a decrease of 7.9 per cent.; while the rate of death from all causes in the two preceding weeks was 15.7 in Cardiff, 15.0 in Birmingham, 14.5 in Liverpool, 14.2 in London, 13.9 in Sheffield, 13.8 in Leeds, 13.8 in Manchester, 13.6 in Bradford, 13.5 in Birmingham, 13.5 in Manchester, 13.4 in Leeds, and 13.4 in Liverpool. The birth-rate registered in England and Wales during the quarter under notice exceeded the deaths by 84,104; this represents the natural increase of the population during the period.

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