

ture in the administration of the laws relating to the care and custody of the insane in Scotland.

"The success which has attended the Scotch system of administration in this special feature of its operations has, of late years, attracted the attention of visitors from various quarters interested in the care and treatment of the insane.

"Patients in private dwellings in Scotland, under the jurisdiction of the Board of Lunacy, are not as a rule congregated or grouped together in some two or three localities, but are widely scattered over the face of the country, wherever there may happen to be a family with one of its members idiotic or insane, whose condition renders him a proper subject for domestic care—or wherever a suitable guardian can be found for any person of this description who has no relatives to take charge of him. And not only are lunatics in private dwellings thus widely scattered over the country, but in the great majority of instances their position in such dwellings is that of single patients; and to find two or more patients lodged together in the same house is a circumstance which can only legally occur where "special license" has been granted to the occupier of the house for that purpose.

"Although the Board of Lunacy is empowered to grant special licenses for the reception of as many as four lunatics in one house, the number in each house does not, on the whole, average more than two. Experience has shown that, in the case of pauper lunatics, it is not generally desirable to exceed this number. The class of persons from whom the guardians are taken—cottagers in a humble position in life—are seldom provided with house room sufficient to accommodate four additional inmates, and the reception of so large a number, in addition to the members of their own families, is very apt to do away with the purely domestic character of the arrangement, which is one of its most desirable features. It has therefore been resolved in future licenses to restrict the number of patients, as far as possible, to two in each house destined for the reception of pauper lunatics. In every application for a license it is necessary to state, in addition to the number of patients whom it is desired to receive, the number and size of the apartments of which the dwelling consists, and the number of sane inmates, including children. The Board of Lunacy is thus placed in

* Seventeenth Annual Report of the General Board in Lunacy for Scotland, Edinburgh, 1875, Appendix F Report by Dr. Patterson, Deputy Commissioner.

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