

"occurring" insanity is really increasing in the community; and, if it be so, to what extent? It is probable that far more care is taken to segregate persons suffering from the milder forms of insanity than used to be the case. fitness for such detention being considered to imply the need for treatment of a disease quite as much as the fact that the insane person requires protection from himself, or that the community has to be protected from him; and, again, in the case of the aged, whose numbers go to swell the list of "first attacks," removal to asylums is well known to be on the increase. Hence it happens that, without any actual marked increase in the prevalence of mental disorder, many such defectives are now being notified who, a generation or two ago, would have been left outside the pale of official recognition.

Our readers must extract what comfort they can out of this. The fact cannot be escaped from that since 1859, when records first began to be kept, down to the present time, the statistics of certified insanity in England and Wales have been steadily mounting. Figures given in the report shew that on the 1st of January, 1859, the total number of certified insane under care was 36,672. The figures for 1906 we have already given; they shew the astonishing rate of increase of 237.2 per cent. During the same period, moreover, the population has increased by 77.5 per cent.

Of the 123,988 insane persons at this moment under care, 91,160 are in county or borough asylums, 4,323 in registered hospitals, 1,685 in metropolitan licensed houses, 1,846 in provincial licensed houses, 164 in naval and military hospitals, 817 in criminal lunatic asylums (of which there are now two, an establishment having just been opened at Parkhurst convict prison), 1,125 in ordinary workhouses, 6,679 in metropolitan district asylums, 494 private single patients, and 5,595 out-door pauper patients, and 9,889 private patients. The criminal lunatics (736 males, 227 females) have increased by forty-two, the total under care on the 1st of January, 1907, being 963, of whom 147, or 15.2 per cent., were in county and borough asylums, where there was one more patient than last year. The