

ON WARDS IN GENERAL HOSPITALS FOR ACUTE, NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASES.*

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Having, in a recent paper on "Neurology and the Prevention of Insanity in the Poor," advocated the establishment of wards or pavilions in connection with general hospitals, I hope a few remarks on how this plan is succeeding in other countries, especially in Great Britain, Germany and the United States, may be of some interest to the members of this Association. In Great Britain the only wards in operation are at Glasgow, where most satisfactory and encouraging results have been obtained. The beginning here was in a few wards, which were unsuitable, from a hospital point of view, for the reception of so-called "nervous cases." In spite of this objection the results were so encouraging that in June last a pavilion, properly equipped for the purpose, was erected in connection with one of the general hospitals. The statistics of the work in Glasgow thus far published show that about 65 per cent. were discharged, recovered or relieved; a very gratifying result.

It is to Germany, however, that we must turn for a longer experience of this method of treatment, as the first wards for the purpose were here put in operation, a fact which I believe accounts for the high standing in the teaching of mental diseases in that country, which is generally acknowledged to be the most advanced in the world to-day. To Griesinger belongs the credit of having framed the first coherent plan for the establishment of these wards in Germany, although they had been advocated since 1860. Scholtz established isolation rooms and observation wards in connection with the Bremen general hospitals in 1870, and Reijers at about the same date organized a similar provision at Wurtzburg for fifty or sixty patients. The first clinic for these cases was opened by Furstner at Heidelberg in 1878, and it was here that Kraepelin did such excellent work. A few months after the opening of this clinic at Heidelberg, Fleischsig opened the second clinic at Leipsic. The number of these has since steadily increased, so that there is now such a clinic in each of the twenty universities, conducted either in wards specially

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