

This result is as favourable as can be expected in other diseases than insanity.

The very large percentage of recent cases in the admissions shews that the factors producing this malady have not diminished, and in the present state of society are likely to continue.

From the best information we can obtain, *hereditary taint* is of marked significance, but on this subject I would refer to my Report of last year, where this subject is more fully detailed.

There is one fact which should not be lost sight of, and that is the advantage of early hospital treatment. Of the very recent cases, more than 66 per cent. can be restored, but of those of a duration extending over a year the cure rate falls as low as 2 or 3 per cent.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Improvement and repair are going on as usual.

Two wards have been re-painted. Two sections of the building have had the ventilating flues connected by galvanized iron pipes with the common ventilator for the section. This will not only give improved ventilation, but render impossible the passage of fire or sparks into the attic. Other two sections are being similarly re-modelled.

The passages leading from the wards to the two fire-proof stairways of female department are to be defended by an additional door.

In common with other institutions, we have had no satisfactory means of recording the watchfulness of the night attendants in the performance of their very responsible duties. Over 400 lives and a half million dollars' worth of property are for more than a third of the time under their charge.

On the part of the management it is necessary that there be accurate knowledge of the duty performed. On the part of the night watches that there be unimpeachable evidence that they have performed their duty. In case of fire or accident demanding investigation, this knowledge would be of paramount importance.

The means to carry out the above requirements have so far been unsatisfactory, when dependence has to be placed on irregular tours of observation during the night or the "watchman's detector" pocket time-piece.

Other objections aside, it is quite evident that if the night attendant must carry a time-piece and a lantern, in his visits to the rooms of patients who need his care, there is the probability that he will be either remiss in his duty or the time piece will receive rough usage.

To overcome these difficulties we have devised an apparatus in the central office, by which, when the attendant presses on an ordinary