APPEAL
FOR THE
FIRST HOME FOR THE INSANE
ON
MOUNT LEBANON,

BY
THEOPHILUS WALDMEIER.
FOUNDER AND LATE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE FRIENDS' MISSION
ON MOUNT LEBANON,
AND
AUTHOR OF "TEN YEARS IN ABIYINIA AND SIXTEEN YEARS IN SYRIA."

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HEADLEY BROTHERS,
14, BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT, E.C.

1897.
Introductory Note.

My friend Theophilus Waldmeier needs, I think, little introduction to British readers; his work in the East speaks for itself, and is well known to all who have visited the Lebanon.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldmeier have a twofold object in their visit to Europe—to see and investigate the best institutions for the insane, in order to gather knowledge for their work, and to arouse interest in the hearts of the charitable, that the necessary means may be provided.

As regards the first aim, they have visited and carefully examined a great many of the best asylums in Switzerland, Germany, France, and more recently in England and Scotland. Some of our large new county asylums, such as that at Claybury, where they were kindly entertained by the Superintendent, Dr. Jones, are built on excellent modern principles. Dr. Clouston, of Morningside, Edinburgh, Dr. Yellowlees, of Gartnavel, Glasgow, Dr. Percy Smith, of Bethlem, London, Dr. Whitcombe, of the City Asylum, Birmingham, Dr. Bedford Pierce, of the Retreat, York, with other leading mental physicians, have helped Mr. Waldmeier with advice and sympathy, and joined the local committees in aid of the work.

The second aim, that of raising funds, is rendered necessary by the comparative poverty of the country itself. Let it not, however, be thought that Syria is not doing her own share. A large committee has been formed of the leading persons in Beyrout, representing all sections of the town, and all religions (although the undisguised aim of the founder is to work the Home for
the Insane upon Christian principles from the outset, to undertake the general responsibility of the asylum, with an executive of nine well-known Protestant residents. Dr. Wortabet is President; Dr. Jessup, Pastor of the large American Church at Beyrout, and Secretary of the American Mission, is General Secretary; and Mr. Charles Smith, an English banker in the town, Treasurer. This Committee at once collected amongst themselves about £100. When the Home is opened, it is probable that in course of time a material source of income may be found in paying patients. But at first, and for all the foundation expenses, considerable means will be required, estimated at £10,000. Local committees have been formed in various centres for the collection of funds, and Sir R. Tangye has taken the office of Treasurer for this country.

The asylum will be built on the cottage system, which is now approved by the best authorities; it must be placed on the plain of Beyrout, within easy access of that town, and where there is a good supply of water. The large medical college belonging to the American Mission may probably utilise the new institution as a valuable place of clinical study, and the resident doctor of the asylum may be invited to lecture on mental diseases in the college. It is Mr. Waldmeier's earnest desire that the poor insane should be treated not only on the humane principles of the alienist medicine of to-day, but with Christian love and kindness. The work in Syria will probably be a difficult one, as prejudices of a deep-rooted character will be encountered; not only ignorance and superstition, but active fanaticism may hinder the work; but those who know Mr. Waldmeier, and what he has accomplished in the past, will hardly doubt that his great experience and tact in dealing with Eastern people will enable him to succeed.

Some may say, what claim have the insane of this province of the Turkish Empire upon our sympathies and help? The answer is, that care for the sick in body or mind is one of the fruits of civilisation, and that it is the part of favoured Western States, such as our own, to help the East to a higher plane of life, religiously and socially. It is a pioneer work. The Home Mr. Waldmeier would establish will be a grand object-lesson, and its use will extend far beyond the immediate help of those to whom it gives a shelter.

R. HINGSTON FOX, M.D.
Finsbury Square, E.C.
January, 1897.

"ROYAL ASYLUM,
MORNSIDE, EDINBURGH.

I met Mr. and Mrs. Th. Waldmeier in Beyrout in the spring of 1896, and found Mr. Waldmeier about to start for Europe and America to endeavour to raise funds for a new Home for the Insane in Syria, a project which excited my keenest sympathy. I had seen for myself the urgency of this mission on account of the abominable way the insane are now treated in Syria. I saw medical men, clergymen, and business men of repute in Syria in regard to this matter, and they all agreed that no better man than Mr. Waldmeier could be got in Syria for this mission. He has experience, enthusiasm and high character; he is backed and supported by a representative committee, and has a treasurer for the fund collected.

T. S. CLOUSTON, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.,
Physician Superintendent, Royal Edinburgh Asylum."
THE LONDON COMMITTEE FOR THE
HOME FOR INSANE ON MOUNT LEBANON,
SYRIA.

Sir Richard Tangye, F.R.G.S., 35, Queen Victoria Street,
R.C. (Treasurer for Great Britain).
+ Rev. W. Wright, D.D., of the British and Foreign Bible Society.
Rev. Dr. A. Tien, 25, Mansfield Gardens, Hampstead.
Dr. Hingston Fox, 23, Finsbury Square.
Dr. John Dixon, 39, Gloucester Road, Finsbury Park.
R. Cope Morgan, Esq., Editor of The Christian, Paternoster Buildings.
Dr. R. Jones, Superintendent of the Lindon County Asylum,
Claybury, Woodford, Essex.
Dr. F. K. P. Taylor, Claybury Asylum.
Dr. Percy Smith, Superintendent of Bethlem Royal Hospital.
Francis William Fox, Esq., 14, Deans Yard, Westminster.
Dr. A. T. Schofield, 141, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park.
Dr. T. Gilbart Smith, 68, Harley Street, Cavendish Square.
Colonel J. F. Morton, Superintendent of the Mildmay Park Conference Hall.
Dr. Whitcombe, Superintendent of the Birmingham City Asylum.

A HOME FOR THE INSANE IN BIBLE LANDS.

As I have been for 38 years a missionary in the East, first in Abyssinia, and afterwards in Syria, I have had abundant opportunities for studying the needs of these countries. I speak especially now about the urgent need of Syria, and feel constrained to bring it before the public. I am sure that this pressing need will find many helping hands and hearts for poor suffering humanity.

The urgent need which I desire to bring before Christians and lovers of down-trodden humanity is a home for the insane. I think I am right in saying that since our Lord Jesus Christ had pity on the poor lunatics and healed their diseases, nothing more has been done for this class of sufferers in that country. I therefore believe it is right to follow also in this respect our Divine Master's example, and do what we can in order to bring help and relief to these afflicted people of Bible lands.

American and European missionaries have done a great deal for Syria and Palestine. Schools have been built, colleges opened, churches and hospitals erected; the Holy Scriptures have been translated, printed and circulated, and other good books have been printed, and various means have been employed to elevate and enlighten the people. All honour and praise is due to those noble missionaries who have done their utmost for the social and religious elevation of the country; but there is still one great need to be supplied, and this need is that of the totally forsaken sufferers from mental diseases.
During the last seven years I have been greatly interested in the insane, and have sympathised deeply with them, but I could not do anything for them, as I had on my hands the superintendence of the large mission station which I organized 23 years ago in Brumana, on Mt. Lebanon, for the Society of Friends. As the Lord has now sent 17 native and 12 European helpers for this work, I feel that I can leave the work in their hands and give myself entirely to the great and pressing need of helping the poor insane in the East.

I had no idea of the large number of lunatics who are in Syria, but, when I began to study their deplorable condition, I found that there are more of these unfortunate sufferers than I ever anticipated. The governor of the District of El Meint told me that he found 20 insane in his district alone, who are bound hand and foot in iron chains, and as the Lebanon is divided into seven districts, we may count about 140 of these, not including the milder cases. In the rest of Syria and other places in the Orient, where there is no proper accommodation for them, the only refuges for these poor lunatics are dark caves, dives, or vaults, in some convents, where they are fettered in heavy iron chains.

The only acknowledged form of insanity in the Orient is the demono-mania (devil-possession), and in consequence of this we find that the only treatment of the insane is exorcism, which has been kept in the hands of the priests from the oldest time until the present day. I cannot now enter upon the cruelty with which the poor lunatics are treated and tortured to death in these places, but I will just explain what should be done for them in order to ameliorate their deplorable condition.

The first step in this direction is to build a home for about 40 men and 40 women. This establishment should be erected in a healthy locality on Mt. Lebanon, where we enjoy a Christian government, good laws, great liberty, and many other privileges. It should be built according to a well-devised plan by a European architect for this special purpose, including the most modern equipments, in a locality where there is plenty of good water, not far from Beyrout.

The cost of such a construction, according to theottage system, would be about £10,000, including the land on which it is built, which should be large enough to occupy the patients in garden work. A well-qualified doctor (specialist) should be engaged as resident physician at the asylum, supported by a staff of well-qualified and experienced men and women nurses.

The general management of this establishment should rest in the hands of the business superintendent, who would be supported by the needful overseers and servants. The doctor of the asylum and the business superintendent should be guided by a local committee of prominent gentlemen at Beyrout, who would meet very three months for the consideration of the general welfare of the home.

Those patients who are able to pay must defray their expenses during their stay in the retreat, and those who are too poor to pay anything ought to be maintained and cared for gratis. One part of the asylum should be appropriated for imbecile and epileptic patients, who have likewise a great claim to be cared for by medical help and Christian pity and kindness.

The home should be built by donations and collections specially made in different parts of Europe and America, in addition to the funds raised in Syria itself. The current expenses should be met by annual subscriptions. Committees in various parts of Europe and America should be organized, and linked together by their respective secretaries, in order to keep up the interest in the establishment. Sir Richard Tangye, F.R.G.S., 35, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., has kindly consented to be the Treasurer for Great Britain and Ireland, and will be glad to receive funds from individuals and from the local treasurers for the Home. Annual reports and accounts will be given by the executive committee at Beyrout. As regards religion,
no special creed or sect should guide this establishment, but the simple Gospel Truth should be taught, and Jesus Christ should be preached as the power of God unto salvation. All those who are engaged in the home should feel the call from God and be constrained by the love of Christ to bring relief to the sufferers from mental diseases. The institution should be undenominational in its character, and receive patients from all creeds and sects, from different nationalities and religions, without the slightest preference to the one or to the other, as its support should not be restricted to one nationality alone, as Dr. Clouston says, but all nations and denominations should have a share in this noble work in Bible lands. The Constitution and Bye-laws of the Lebanon Home for the Insane have already been drawn up and printed at Beyrout.

TELEBLBLE TREATMENT OF THE INSANE IN THE EAST.

Kuzheya is a Maronite convent on the heights of the northern parts of Mount Lebanon in the district of Batroon. Its position is romantic and its building is old and strong. It is one of the oldest of the numerous convents of Batroon and Kasravan. The general superstition of the people is, that these convents are holy places where God works many miracles; and that each of these monasteries is in possession of a special healing power, and in this way Kuzheya, with its large cave, has the reputation of being able to cure the insane. The cave has a small entrance at the side of a deep valley, but it widens and extends inside to a great dimension, and it is both damp and rugged. The water drops down on every side and forms here and there small stagnant pools. The inside is in winter extremely cold, and the water which drops down contains a great deal of lime, and forms stalactites of different shapes, generally long pillars of various sizes. The monks take the smallest of these and break them into little pieces, and bore little holes through them, in order to sell them as relics to the visitors, who hang them around their children's necks, believing that by doing so they will preserve them from all evil and hinder the devil from taking possession of them. Along the rough, natural wall of the cave are blocks of stone, placed as seats for the lunatics, and behind every seat is a heavy iron chain, bolted and strongly fixed into the solid rock. The poor lunatic one is forcibly put down on this block of stone, and his neck is fastened by the chain to the wall. The Syrians believe, as a rule, that every insane person is possessed by a demon, and, as there is no proper accommodation for them in that country, the people who can afford it take them to the cave of Kuzheya. As soon as the lunatic has reached this notorious convent, his relations deliver him to the Abbot, and he conveys the afflicted patient to the heartless monks who are in charge of the cave. These begin at once to treat the poor victim very cruelly, in order to impress on him their unlimited power. He is pulled by the monks through the narrow entrance into the gloomy cave, and there he is forced to sit down upon the block of stone, mentioned before, and if he shows the least resistance he is beaten down. The chain is then put round his neck and strongly fastened into the wall. In this horrible position, in that dark, filthy, and unhealthy cave, the poor victim of ignorance, superstition, and cruelty, has to linger for three days and three nights. During the third night the monks say that St. Antony (who is the Patron of the convent and its cave) will appear to the insane person in the cave, and cast out the demon loose him from his chains, and restore him to his reason. But if this is not the case, the poor patient is subjected to another more severe treatment. It is, however, often the case that he dies during the first cruel operation. If the demon has shown himself very
obstinate during the first course of exorcism the monks think it right to engage in more severe measures. They
bind the hands and feet of the poor sufferer while the iron chain, by which he is kept close to the wall, is still
round his neck. A priest is then called to perform the exorcism; he takes a heavy boot in his right hand, and
beats the insane person repeatedly upon his forehead, while he is holding in his left hand the sedia and the
book from which he reads the formula of exorcism. He
addresses himself to the devil, saying: "Get thee away
from this person, accursed devil, and enter into the Red
Sea, and leave the temple of God. I force thee in the
name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost to go
to the everlasting fire," etc., etc.

It is a sad and not surprising fact that the patients
scarcely ever recover under such inhuman and cruel
treatment, but go from bad to worse, and generally die.
The monks then say that St. Antony has loosened the
patient from his chain, and has taken him straightway
up to heaven, for which the monks and priest ask a heavy
fee from the relatives of the poor deceased.

Near Mount Carmel is another cave, not far from the
convent of the Carmelite monks, and tradition says
that the prophet Elijah of old dwelt in this cave, in
consequence of which the people regard it as a holy
place with healing power. They often bring their
lunatics and those who suffer from mental diseases into
this cave, where they are locked in for three days and
three nights without light. The people say that the
prophet Elijah appears to the insane at night, and speaks
with them, and heals them from their diseases, and
casts out the evil spirit from them, but the experience
the relatives have with their unfortunate patients in
this cave also, is very sad.

Another method of exorcism is the following: The insane is tightly bound to a pillar of a house with strong
ropes from head to foot. A priest is called upon to cast
the demon out of the patient, and he goes with the censer
in his hand many times round the poor man, fumigating

him, and reading the formula of exorcism. Of course
this has never been satisfactory. However, the ignorant
superstitious public have looked upon the priests as
magicians from the oldest time until now, believing
them to be empowered to heal spiritual diseases.

The many different kinds of spiritual and mental
diseases present a very difficult field for enquiry, and
much might be said in support of different opinions on
the subject.

But it is my belief that medical and spiritual means
will have to be employed together in order to bring
relief to these objects of our sympathy. Hippocrates,
Caels Aurelianus, and others of the olden time, made
a study of the diseases of the mental faculties, and laid
in many ways the basis of the improved treatment of the
insane without restraint. Edes and Esquirol, in
France, the Tukes and others in England, Heinoth and
Hoffbauer in Germany, and others in other parts of
Europe, have been the Reformers of the Lunatic
Asylums, and have delivered the insane from their iron
chains, and lifted them up once more to the rank of
human beings. Heinroth especially emphasized the
religious and spiritual means to be used for the
psychical disturbance, as well as the proper medical
treatment of the physical diseases. These men prepared
a solid foundation, and marked out well how to build
upon it the reformed system of doing better work in
treating the sufferers from mental diseases.

The treatment of the insane at Damascus will likewise
show how needful it is to gather them into a proper
home. A gentleman of Damascus told me that there
is a place in that town for about twelve men who suffer
from mental diseases. Each man is bound by an iron
chain to the wall of a little cell of about five feet square:

* Mr. Hills, in England, said, 60 years ago, that in a properly constructed Asylum
with the proper and sufficient nursing, restraint is never necessary, never justifiable
and always injurious in all cases of lunacy.
or fits, he just pours over them a pail of cold water, from head to foot of the naked body. They are, as a general rule, badly fed and cruelly beaten; on account of this ill treatment, and the filthiness of their prison, the cases generally terminate fatally. These scenes were witnessed last year by Dr. Clouston, of Edinburgh.

In Syria and Palestine, and in the whole of the East, we find that the poorer people, and many of the higher classes of all denominations, consider those who suffer from mental diseases as being influenced and possessed by a demon (in Arabic idjahn, whence madjnoon—possessed of a demon). The Mohammedans, who call their insane madjancen (plural number), regard them as under a supernatural influence, and offer them a kind of respect. It is said that not far from Nazlons (the old Shechem or Sychar) is a Mohammedan sheykh, who is in connection with the demons, and that they are subjected to him, in consequence of which he is able, as they say, to cast out the demon from the insane; but he asks a great amount of money for this, his wonderful work. The same thing I have seen in Abyssinia in the story of the buda (demon), which is, as the Abyssinians say, a possession of an evil spirit. Nobody is able to cure this appalling disease, except those few people who are in connection with the buda, to whom the demons are subjected. I have seen fearful things of this sort during my ten years' stay in Abyssinia.*

The Mohammedans have a place at Nazlons for those who have lost their reason; and this place is called El Khadr, the patron of which is the prophet Elijah, who shows his power in casting out devils from the madjancen. If there is any Mohammedan who is madjnoon, they bring him up to El Khadr at Nazlons. There he is put at once into a horrible position; his arms and feet are put round a pillar, and as they are not long enough to meet, they are fastened together with chains. In this cruel position the poor sufferer

* See "Demon Possession," by Rev. Dr. John L. Nevius, 50 years missionary to the Chinese. (Fleming H. Revell Company, Chicago and New York.)
not recover her reason, and was not merely as insane as before, but much worse. She ran away from Brumana down to the sea, where she drowned herself.

In the neighbourhood of Bethlehem is a convent called El Khudr. It is dedicated to St. George the Dragon Killer, and stands under the superintendence of the Oriental Orthodox Christian Patriarch of Jerusalem. The legend tells us that St. George killed the dragon, and that the dragon was a demon, and in consequence of this the people believe that St. George is also able to subdue and cast out demons. Therefore, the monks of St. George's convent have a few small cells appropriated for the madmen. However, it appears that St. George has not succeeded in killing all the demons, as there are still, I am sorry to say, many demons who take possession of the people. In these cells the insane are half or quite naked, with heavy iron chains round their necks, running through a hole of the wall of the cells into the church of St. George, where they are fastened round a stone pillar.

From these statements we can clearly see how pressing is the need for a home for the insane in Bible lands. I believe that when once a model asylum is established in Syria, others will soon follow in different parts of the Orient. A native doctor of medicine said to me, "I am quite ashamed of my fellow countrymen that they have not yet sufficient sympathy and noble feelings for humanity to arouse them from their indifference to the sufferings of their afflicted brethren, and to induce them to do their utmost to establish the needful accommodation for them. But, alas! although they see the increased pressing need, I am sure that nothing will be done until Christian Europe and America lay the first foundation stone for a regular lunatic asylum in this land."

In May, 1896, I began my work for the poor lunatics in the East, and have travelled in Switzerland, Germany, England, and Scotland, and organized local Committees and appointed local Treasurers in Geneva, Lausanne, Neuchatel, Le Ponts, Berne, Zürich, Bâle, Heidelberg, Frankfort, Elberfeld, Barmen Bielefeld, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Birmingham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and York. In this last place I visited the Retreat, when I was most interested and learned a great deal. I have held meetings in all these places, and have visited the best asylums in order to become acquainted with the architectural requirements and the best methods of treatment to be pursued. I have also obtained very useful information and good suggestions from the greatest authorities on mental diseases in Switzerland, Germany, and Great Britain in regard to the treatment of the insane, as well as to the arrangements and building of asylums suitable to an eastern climate. While my wife and I were travelling in Europe, we received an Arabic newspaper from Syria, the translation of which may be interesting here—

Babda, Mount Lebanon, Syria,
May 4th, 1896.

"We have had the pleasure of having a most interesting meeting of 46 of the best and most highly esteemed and influential men of Beyrut of all denominations—Europeans, Syrians, Mohammedans, Druses, Christians, and Jews—who came together, in the house of Dr. J. Wortabet, to constitute a Committee to consider the question of erecting a home for the poor insane in Bible lands, which will be the first asylum in the Orient. These poor sufferers from mental diseases are treated most cruelly, running about without shelter, and going from bad to worse by the brutality and heartlessness of the people. We need to build a home for them, where they will be kindly treated and taken care of. This home will be unsectarian and international, and all mentally afflicted will have access to it without exception. Our dear and highly esteemed friend, Mr. Th. Waldmeier, has dedicated the rest of his life to this noble and philanthropic enterprise, and has undertaken the journey to Europe, and perhaps also to America, to raise funds for a home for our insane. May God abundantly bless and reward all who have compassion on the poor and sorely afflicted insane of Bible lands."

Out of this large Committee of 46, an Executive of nine members was selected, in order to give strength, confidence, and a solid basis to the undertaking.
The following are the names of
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT BEYROUT:

Rev. John Wortabet, M.D., President (late professor of Anatomy at the American Protestant College at Beyrout).

Rev. Henry Jessup, D.D., General Secretary (Pastor of the Presbyterian American Church at Beyrout, and General Secretary of the American Presbyterian Mission in Syria).

Charles Smith, Esq., Head & Cle, Treasurer (English Banker at Beyrout).

Esbir Eff. Shkeyr, Assistant Secretary (Dragoman of the British Consulate General).

Assad Cheyrallah, Esq., Assistant Secretary (Clerk of the American Mission Press).

Dr. Brigstock (English Physician at Beyrout).

Dr. Graham, (Physician at the German Hospital of the Knights of St. John, and Medical Professor at the American Protestant College at Beyrout).

Dr. William Van Dyck (Physician at the Greek Hospital of St. George at Beyrout).

Theophilus Waldmeier, Founder and General Agent of the Lebanon Home for Insane.

It is interesting to know that the Committee started a subscription among the natives of all denominations in Syria, and soon more than £160 were collected for the Home.

Of the many recommendations which I received, I give here three only, which will show the reader the opinion of eminent gentlemen who have lived in Syria for many years, on this great subject.

Beyrout, Syria,
Feb. 28th, 1896.

"It gives me great pleasure to commend to the Christian world the beneficent project now undertaken with so much of self-denial, practical wisdom, and true consecration, by my friend Mr. Theophilus Waldmeier.

My observation for forty years in Syria have convinced me that there is an urgent need for an Asylum for the Insane, the Imbecile and Epileptic. There being no provision for these unfortunates, they are treated with brutal violence, confined with iron chains, or left at large, a terror and a peril to society.

Mr. Waldmeier's plan is wise and entirely practicable, and is worthy of support of the benevolent and humane in all Christian lands. His long experience in Mount Lebanon, his knowledge of the people, and his successful planting and training of the admirable schools in Brumana, have given him exceptional advantages for the successful founding of the humane institution now proposed. No better person could be found to begin the work, and Christian philanthropists can rest assured that he will make wise and conscientious use of the funds entrusted to him for this object.

HENRY H. JESSUP, D.D.
Stated Clerk of the American Presbyterian Mission in Syria.

GEORGE POST, M.D., and Professor of Surgery at the American Protestant College.

Dear Mr. Waldmeier,
Beyrout, Feb. 20th, 1896.

"I have heard with much interest and pleasure that you are about to undertake a work of great benefit to the poor insane of this country. Nothing in my opinion is so much called for as an asylum for this unfortunate class, who are utterly unprovided for throughout the whole of Syria, and it is truly heartrending to see how cruelly they are treated; and cases which might recover become utterly hopeless from ignorant and bad management. Let me wish you, therefore, and with all my heart, God speed and a complete success in this most humane enterprise. You have done much good during the 25 years I have known you, in Syria, especially in connection with the schools and hospitals of your Brumana Mission, and you cannot close and crown your life with a more useful deed than with that which has engaged your thoughts for the last seven years, and to which you now propose to devote your remaining years. Having put your hand to this plough, I hope you will never turn back without fully accomplishing the design which you have in view. Of course I need not remind you that the success of the scheme will depend entirely on the full equipment of a lunatic asylum according to the latest developments of such institutions in Europe. In this work you have my best wishes.

Yours very sincerely,
JOHN WORTABET, M.D.,
and late Professor of Anatomy in the Medical College at Beyrout."
From Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, R. Drummond Hay, of Beyrout — Syria, 11th April, 1896.

Dear Mr. Waldmeier,

"Your design of building an Asylum for the Insane in Syria has my keenest sympathy, and cannot fail to commend itself to all who are interested in the welfare of Bible lands, and indeed to all actuated by the desire to do what in them lies to relieve the misery of their fellow men. I sincerely wish that your praiseworthy endeavour may meet with all the success they so richly deserve.

R. DRUMMOND HAY."

Dr. T. Clouston, of Edinburgh, and Dr. Yellowlees, of Glasgow, two eminent physicians and great authorities in mental diseases, who have lately travelled through Palestine and Syria, have seen for themselves the pitiful condition of the poor in those countries, and have helped me a great deal in Scotland, and I think I cannot do better than repeat what they said at my public meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow, held in November and December of 1896, which appeared in part in the Scotsman and in the Glasgow Herald.

Dr. T. Clouston, Superintendent of the Royal Asylum, in Edinburgh, said:—

20th November, 1896.

"I became interested in the subject of the insane in Syria when I was in the East in the beginning of this year. I met Mr. Th. Waldmeier and some of the doctors, and found them united in the opinion that the condition of the insane was a disgrace to humanity. Along with other medical men I made personal investigations into the existing state of matters, and found that the condition of the insane in Syria absolutely defied description. It was beyond anything that I could have conceived in the way of human neglect, cruelty, and misery. In commending the movement, I must say that it concerns humanity at large, and not only a single section of it. I must earnestly express my conviction that an Asylum for the Insane in Syria is most urgently needed. A Committee is organized in Beyrout of influential gentlemen, whom I know, which is a guarantee that the undertaking rests upon a sound and solid foundation."

On the motion of Dr. Moir, seconded by Mr. George Cowan, it was resolved that a Home conducted on scientific principles should be built for the Insane in Syria, and in connection with the furtherance of the movement a local Committee was appointed in Edinburgh, consisting of Dr. Clouston (Chairman), Professor A. R. Simpson, Sir Arthur Mitchell, The Rev. Mr. Grant, Dr. John Thomson, and Major Richey, R.A. Dr. Clouston and Dr. John Thomson were appointed Treasurer and Secretary.

Dr. Yellowlees, Superintendent of the Royal Asylum, "Gartnavel," near Glasgow, said:—

December 2nd, 1896.

"When I was travelling in Syria, I was called to a mentally afflicted person in Damascus, who has been for a long time insane, and caused great trouble to her relations. I told them that she ought to have been sent to an Asylum, where she would be under proper treatment, but to my great surprise I was informed that there was no Asylum in the whole of Syria and Palestine, or anything done until now to ameliorate their most pitiable condition in Bible lands, and the way of their treatment is far worse than neglect. An international effort is now being made to help them, and to establish on Mt. Lebanon a small Asylum, which would practically demonstrate and teach the humane methods of treatment now adopted in Europe and America. Mr. Theo. Waldmeier, long identified with Mission work in the East, has undertaken this most important and much needed work of building an Asylum on the Lebanon territory, where it would be entirely free from Turkish interference or control, and conducted in the same humane and enlightened principles as in our own land."

Dr. Bruce Goff, President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, expressed his deep sympathy with these sufferers from ignorance and cruelty, and his cordial approval of the proposal to erect a good Asylum in the Lebanon District, and commended the project to the liberality of the public. Dr. Yellowlees was appointed Treasurer to the local funds in Glasgow, in order to assist Th. Waldmeier in his good work.
Major T. D. Richey, R.A., who is about to proceed from Edinburgh to Londonderry, is Honorary Agent for Ireland.

In conclusion, I should like to say that, after so many eminent men, both in Europe and Asia, have so emphatically expressed their approval and interest in the proposed Home for the mentally afflicted in the Orient, I feel encouraged in my work, trusting that God will direct the hearts of His people to help me. To those who have already helped in this cause, as the following list will show, I convey in the name of the Committee, and in the names of the poor insane in the East, my cordial thankfulness.

As it is intended to build the Asylum on the Cottage system it would be interesting to allot different blocks to different nationalities. Say, first, the Administration block to Great Britain; second, a cottage to Germany; third, to Switzerland; fourth, to America; fifth, to Syria; thus demonstrating to the East and to the world at large that there can be unity for good work among Christian nations.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

THEOPHILUS WALDMEIER,

*General Agent of the Home for the Insane on Mt. Lebanon.*

My London address: —

c/o W. C. Allen,
7, Cowper Street,
Finsbury, London, E.C.

---

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS THE SYRIAN HOME FOR THE INSANE,

From the Month of October, 1896, to 14th of January, 1897.

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£1,125 17 1

Richard Tangye,
Treasurer.

14th Jan., 1897.

Some valued Subscriptions have come in since, and the whole amount will be published ultimately.

"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them."
Hebrews xiii., 3.