

CHAPTER 17

Lunatics

PART A.—GENERAL

1. Lunatics may be classed as follows:—

- (a) Criminal lunatics. Classification.
- (b) Lunatics for whose detention in an asylum a reception order has been passed.
- (c) Lunatics so found by inquisition.

2. Criminal lunatics are lunatics for whose confinement an order *has* been passed under section 466 or 471 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, or under section 30 of the Prisoners Act, 1900. These are dealt with in parts B and C of this Chapter. Criminal lunatics.

3. Reception orders are dealt with in Chapter II of the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912, which lays down the procedure to be observed before a person, other than a criminal lunatic or a lunatic so found by inquisition, can be detained in an asylum. Such reception orders are usually made by Magistrates. Reception orders.

4. Lunatics so found by inquisition are dealt with by the Civil Courts (*See Part III, Indian Lunacy Act, 1912*). Lunatics so found by inquisition.

5. Although persons suffering from unsoundness of the mind are described as lunatics in the Acts mentioned above, it is now considered more humane to refer to them as "mental patients." Similarly, institutions for the care and treatment of such persons, which were formerly called Lunatic Asylums, are now called Mental Hospitals. The latter term should ordinarily be used in correspondence. Term "Mental Patient" and "Mental Hospital" explained.

6. The only institution of this kind in the Punjab is the Punjab Mental Hospital at Amritsar to which all mental patients, whose confinement is considered necessary, are now sent. Accommodation is Admission into Punjab Mental Hospital.

limited, and the earliest possible notice should be given, whenever it is proposed to send a patient to the Hospital. Magistrates are particularly requested, before passing any order for detention therein, to study the rules regarding admission, of which the most important are given in this Chapter.

Further
directions
about
admission.

7. If possible, arrangements should be made for the patient to reach the hospital before 5 p.m. and admission on Sundays and gazetted holidays should be avoided. Patients should invariably be brought to the hospital in a conveyance, and the escort should be instructed to see that the patient is properly clothed.