

A letter to Thomas Thomson, Esq. M.P : containing considerations on the necessity of proper places being provided by the legislature for the reception of all insane persons and on some of the abuses which have been found to exist in madhouses with a plan to remedy them / by W.C. Ellis.

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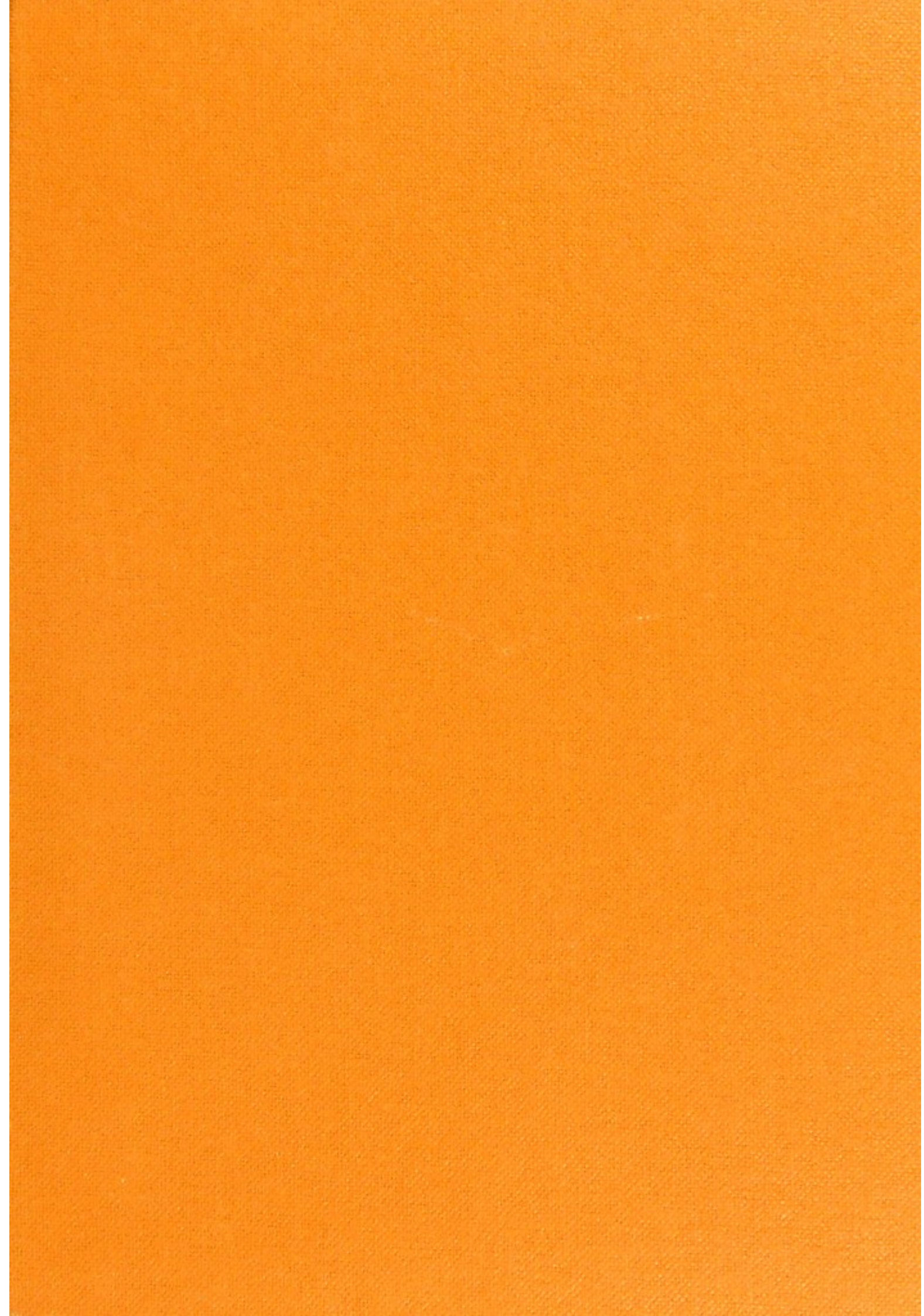
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LETTER

TO

THOMAS THOMPSON, Esq. M. P.

CONTAINING

CONSIDERATIONS ON THE NECESSITY OF PROPER PLACES BEING
PROVIDED BY THE LEGISLATURE

FOR THE RECEPTION OF ALL

INSANE PERSONS,

AND ON SOME OF THE ABUSES WHICH HAVE BEEN
FOUND TO EXIST IN MADHOUSES,

WITH

A PLAN TO REMEDY THEM.

BY W. C. ELLIS,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

HULL:

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A

LETTER

TO

THOMAS THOMPSON, ESQ. M. P.

SIR,

THE attention of the public having been lately so much drawn to the subject of Insanity, in consequence of the investigations that have taken place in the various hospitals for the reception of Lunatics ; and a committee of the House of Commons having been for some time employed in amending a bill for the better regulation of them ; it seems a matter of surprise, that no medical man, connected with a large public establishment, and who, consequently, must have observed the necessity that exists for such an amendment, has as far as I know, yet stepped forward to suggest any plan that might assist them in their deliberations. That this has not been done ; and because the time is again drawing near for the meeting of Parliament, is the best excuse I can offer as an apology for my publicly addressing you, as a member of that committee, on this subject : conscious, as I feel, of being very inadequate to a task of such importance ; having had, compara-



tively, but little experience in it; and foreseeing at the same time, how difficult it will be to lay down a plan that will not infringe upon the liberty of the subject, and yet keep under restraint all those whose situations require it; that will be best calculated to expedite their recovery, and yet afford the safest and most comfortable asylum for those whose reason cannot be restored.

Truly important are the objects the committee have in view; and my anxiety, that every thing may be done, which is in the power of the Legislature, that can alleviate the sufferings of this miserable, and, hitherto, almost neglected class of our fellow-creatures, prompts me to risk being thought presumptuous, rather than omit offering to your consideration what seems to me the best adapted to accomplish the desired end. But before I proceed to this, I would beg leave to draw your attention to what I consider the general nature of the disease, and make some remarks on the abuses to which those who labour under it are liable. It is not my intention, nor is it necessary, Sir, on this occasion to enter into an elaborate statement of the minute characters of the disease, or to go into a long detail of those abuses already too well known both to yourself and the other members of the committee. On the disease, all that is necessary is briefly to state its leading features; and to notice the abuses, only so

far as may demonstrate the propriety of the means proposed to remedy them.

Insanity, I consider, may be divided into three states. The first, where, from various causes, a single wrong impression is so strongly fixed on the mind as to prevent the reasoning powers from perceiving the fallacy of it, and producing at the same time a constant desire in the patient to convince others of the correctness of it, and leading to such impropriety of conduct as is injurious either to himself or others. This state assumes a variety of shades, as the habit of the body and the passions of the mind of each different patient varies. In the next state the ideas are unconnected, but not destroyed; the impressions are perfect in the mind, but the power of associating them together is lost. In this state, also, considerable variations take place in different patients, and at different periods. At one time they can arrange a few ideas with some judgment, and at another sink almost into idiotism. The third, and truly melancholy state, is that in which the mind seems to lose all power of action, and the patient exists almost insensible to the impressions of surrounding objects. The raving and melancholy, I think, ought not to be considered as distinct and separate states from the others; but the consequence only of the patients not having their wishes gratified, or their being controlled operating

differently on different dispositions, and on bodily health.

Of the abuses that have existed, the cause of a great proportion of them may be traced to the mystery with which many of those who have had the management of the insane have constantly endeavoured to envelop it; which has contributed, in a great measure, to keep the nature of the disease from being more generally known, and consequently many abuses have remained solely from the circumstance of those to whom the inspection of the insane has been committed, being unacquainted with what might and ought to be done for their relief. It has been too generally considered, that persons deranged on any one subject will entertain erroneous views on every other, pay little or no regard to truth, and therefore are not to be believed; that they are insensible to those little kindnesses and attentions which win so much upon the affections previous to the disease, and are therefore better kept in order by fear and austerity; that close confinement is not injurious to their health, or severely felt by them; and that they are capable of enduring cold and hunger almost with impunity. These erroneous opinions have subjected them to a much greater degree of restraint than has been necessary; prevented their complaints from being attended to; and in a great degree have been the cause of their

being too often left to the direction of ignorant, nay, even of brutal keepers, whose conduct has rather tended to fix than mitigate the disease.— When it is considered what great improvements are daily taking place in every other branch of science and medicine, it seems extraordinary that this has remained so long in the same state. It cannot be from its possessing less interest than many others; for what subject is more calculated to excite the attention, or stimulate research into the means of cure or alleviation, than the spectacle of a mind in ruins? It cannot be from those labouring under it having less claim on humanity. The sight of a single patient in the agony of despair, would be fully sufficient to establish the common right of all to the first feelings of pity in the heart. That but little improvement has taken place, is, I think, evident from the reports printed by the order of your committee. The same practice still exists that has done for many years in the largest and oldest establishment in the kingdom, that of bleeding and vomiting all round the spring and autumn; not because there are at those times any particular symptoms that demand such treatment, but because it is spring and autumn. I dare not, from the few opportunities I have had, take upon me to say, that insane patients are not worse at this season; but I have not seen any case that would justify my forming such an opinion. On the contrary, I am

not convinced even that the paroxism returns at any regular period whatever, independent of bodily disease. The epileptic patients, indeed, have been worse about once a month, but we find that to be the case with those who have epilepsy, and are not deranged ; and if there are several cases under observation at the same time, the fit will be found to occur at any period of the moon's age. The paroxisms will also be found to come on worse about once a month with the female patients, but these also at different periods of the moon. This mode of treatment may, however, be very proper ; but in so many years it is remarkable that nothing has been discovered equally salutary, capable of being applied at any season.

The windows in the sleeping apartments, even of New Bethlem, are not glazed, and the patients must, therefore, be either in darkness, or exposed to all the severity of the weather,* for which there is certainly not the least necessity, in the worst cases. This must have struck any one who had seriously reflected upon it ; and I mention it to prove, that, until very lately, this subject has not been thought upon as it deserves. The true reason for it, I believe, is, that it has been kept too much out of sight ; the management of the insane has been in too few hands ; and many of those who have been engaged in it, finding it a very

* See Report of the Committee of the House of Commons.

lucrative concern, have wished to involve it in great mystery, and, in order to prevent institutions for their cure becoming more general, were desirous that it should be thought there was some secret in the way of medicine for the cure, not easily to be found out. Some medical men have gone so far as even to condescend to the greatest quackery in the treatment of insanity. A patient of mine, a few years ago, was sent to the private house of a physician, about forty miles from hence, where, after remaining some time, she returned much recovered, and brought with her a prescription that was considered of great consequence by her friends : on examining it, however, I found that fictitious names were given to the drugs. I wrote to the Doctor, but the only answer I received was, that the medicine was a secret, and could only be procured at a certain druggist's in that place. On the medicine being sent to the patient, one set of powders appeared to me nothing more than some neutral salt, with antimony, coloured ; and the other set, columbo and valerian. That there is still a reluctance to give information, and speak out upon this subject, I think I am justified in concluding, from the manner in which one of the medical gentlemen, examined before the committee, answered the enquiries made of him. He said, " With respect to the means used, I really "do not depend a vast deal upon medicine ; I do "not think medicine is the sheet-anchor ; it is

“more by management than those patients are cured, than by medicine ; but it is necessary to give medicine at particular times. The disease is not cured by medicine in my opinion. *If I am obliged to make that public, I must do so.*”†

On the disease, enough, probably has been said, to show, that persons labouring under it are incapable of taking care of themselves, and that both for their own safety, and that of others, it is necessary they should be placed in a state of confinement, differing, of course, in degree as the symptoms are violent. How this confinement ought to be managed, so as best to accomplish the restoration, provide for the security and comfort of the patients, and avoid the abuses they are liable to, is the next subject for consideration. But before this be entered upon, it will be necessary to enquire into the number and situation of those to be so confined. That a great difficulty presents itself here, I am well aware. The secrecy with which the friends of those afflicted with insanity are desirous it should be kept, renders an accurate statement of the number of those in the higher orders of society, in large places, almost unattainable ; and there is such a reluctance on the part of parish officers, to make a full return of the number of paupers afflicted in their respective parishes, for fear of incurring an

† See Report of the Committee.

increase of expense in consequence of their being placed in a proper situation, as to render even their numbers uncertain. This, however, we may be sure of, that the actual numbers will be rather over, than under the numbers returned.— It would be desirable, indeed, that the whole of the insane in Great Britain should be ascertained, together with all the places for their reception; and I have no hesitation in saying, that it would be found there are not proper places to accommodate ONE HALF AS THEY OUGHT TO BE. In the county of York, for instance, where there is a large public asylum, that will contain upwards of 100 people, and a great many private houses, it would be thought, that every accommodation would be found that was necessary for the poor. But on investigating this matter further, the room will be found very inadequate; for I am informed, by that active and intelligent magistrate, Mr. HIGGINS, to whom the country is so much indebted for the pains he has taken on the subject, that in the West Riding alone, there are upwards of 600 insane paupers. In the East Riding, I myself have attempted to ascertain the number, from returns made in 1812, but I have been unable to procure the returns for one whole division, and thirty-five parishes in another: those I have procured contain seventy-five paupers.— In the North Riding, I conclude, the number

to be pretty nearly equal to the East ; so that in Yorkshire alone, there are no less than 750 insane paupers, with not proper accommodation at the most for more than 200. In the extensive county of Lincoln, I believe, there is not one public establishment, and but few private ones ; the consequence is, that both there, and every where else, where there is no public asylum for the reception of paupers, all those who are not so violent as to be perfectly unmanageable, and are, therefore, obliged to be sent to a place of security, are allowed to linger out their existence in a work-house, where scarcely any attempt is made towards their recovery ; and thus the useful labour of a great many, who might be restored, if properly treated, is lost ; or if not so confined, they are permitted to wander about the country, a disgrace to civil society. If the same circumstances exist in the other parts of the kingdom, which I have no doubt will be found to be the case, if their situation be examined, it is obvious that there is a necessity for the legislature's *positively enacting*, not leaving it at discretion, that a sufficient number of proper places be formed by each county, or division of county, as the numbers may require, under the direction of the justices, for their reception.

In determining upon the construction of establishments best adapted for the purpose,

the means that are to be used for the cure of the patients, are to be kept constantly in view, together with the security and comfort of the incurable. Insane patients being liable to every complaint that others are subject to, together with those brought on by the body's sympathising with the mind, it seems now generally admitted that it is necessary to have a medical man to superintend such establishments; it is therefore unnecessary to urge that regulation. From what has been before said respecting the nature of the disease, it will be evident, that to overcome the false impressions which have taken place in the first state, and the incapability that exists of connecting the ideas together in the second, can be accomplished only in the first case, by directing the train of thoughts to other subjects; and in the second, by presenting to the patients, such objects as will assist them in connecting together a few ideas at a time, as a child is taught to read, by adding one syllable to another. For these purposes nothing is found so efficacious as employment; but that a great variety is necessary, as well as discrimination in ascertaining what kind is best adapted to different dispositions, so as to engage their attention, is obvious. The particulars, therefore, cannot possibly be pointed out. As a general rule, work of all kinds in the open air, when the weather will permit; in the house, for mechanics in the various kinds of handycraft business, with

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which they are acquainted, as they will turn their attention more readily to what they know, than to that of which they are ignorant, because it requires much less exertion, and the mind being in a state of debility is easily fatigued. The making of baskets seems to excite their interest and attract their attention. For females, spinning, domestic employment, with weeding, and other light works in the garden. Of course care must be taken that none are permitted to be employed where tools are necessary, if they have any disposition to injure either themselves or others. But it must be observed, that patients may be insane on one subject, and perfectly sane on all others, and therefore may be almost as much depended upon as before any insanity took place ; in consequence of which a great many insane patients may be very beneficially employed both for themselves and the institution. It should be at all times remembered, that whatever they are employed in, should be made a matter of importance to them, and they are to be impressed with its usefulness ; that it should be regular, and that each patient should have his daily task assigned him, in proportion as he is capable of attending to it. It may, perhaps, be urged, that a great part of them are quite incapacitated from any employment, and that others cannot be induced to exert themselves ; both of which must, to a certain extent, be granted, but at the same time, much improve-

ment in this branch may take place ; and I believe that in many cases of insanity, which proceed from moral causes, if the patients were immediately, on the first symptoms of the disease appearing, removed to an asylum where such kind of regular discipline was in practice, it would in a very great measure prevent the raving and melancholy states following, which too frequently takes place when left to themselves. For those patients who are in the third and last state, where, probably, from pressure on the brain, they are nearly unconscious of every object about them, little more can be done than to supply them with wholesome food, allow them a yard to walk in for the benefit of the air, and keep them clean. To furnish the means then for attracting the attention of lunatics, to steady and useful employment, after carefully observing there is no bodily complaint to increase or continue the disease, should be an object of the first importance. But in order to do this as extensively as the case demands, considerable room is required. A dry, healthy situation, therefore, seems the best adapted for such an establishment ; at a sufficient distance from a town, to give them the advantage, not of a miserable airing ground, surrounded by a wall, and presenting to the eye one dull uniformity, more calculated to depress than rouse the mind, such *folds* being only fit for the incurables ; but one affording full employment in the open air.

where a variety of objects are constantly attracting the attention, and where they can occasionally go beyond the boundaries of the asylum without observation : nothing being more offensive to the major part of them, than to find themselves the objects of the gaze and curiosity of the multitude. With respect to the construction of the building they are to reside in, Mr. S. TUKE has said so much to the purpose, that I have very little to add. That it is certainly a matter of very great importance to the comfort of the patients, and to the facility with which they are managed, that every attention should be paid to the objects he has pointed out, cannot, for a moment, be called in question. I only hope, that in drawing so much attention to the houses, it will not prevent the situations where they ought to be erected, and the grounds surrounding them, objects fully equal in importance for the cure of the patients, from being taken into proper consideration. In the intended lunatic asylum, at Wakefield, this part of the method of cure seems to have been very properly appreciated. The ground allotted for the patients contains twenty-three acres, and does equal credit to the liberality and the just views, which the justices, and other gentlemen concerned, have entertained on the subject. It is not, however, to be considered, that the ground attached to the asylum, ought to be devoted entirely to pleasure. I have no doubt,

that the produce of it may be made to pay a handsome interest for the sum expended upon it.— One thing strikes me, on examining the various proposed plans which have been offered for such buildings, that might be attended with advantage: it is proposed to have separate sleeping apartments for all the pauper patients. The propriety of this I much question. That there must be a sufficient number of secure places to confine the the refractory and noisy, is absolutely necessary; but in establishments, containing 100 patients, there will not be found more than from 30 to 40, at the most, of this description. The rest will be quiet, and sleep well during the night. For these, though separate beds are, for many reasons which might be assigned, indispensable; yet, if properly classed, separate apartments seem unnecessary; and they add most materially to the expense of the building. I am not aware that any evil can possibly result from four, or even six, patients of this class sleeping in one room. They are rather a check upon one another, than otherwise. A room, 16 by 14 feet, will hold four single beds perfectly well, and be quite as wholesome as the small apartments proposed for each patient, which occupy considerably more room. Apartments of a large size, too, have greatly the advantage over the other in cheerfulness, not having that cell-like appearance which small places have, when little more than capable of holding a bed.

The patients in lunatic asylums, being so completely in the power of those who superintend them, it is necessarily an object of the first importance, to have persons properly qualified to fill those situations. Persons on whom the greatest reliance can be placed; for after all that can be done by the most minute inspection, much, very much, still depends on the judicious management of the male and female directors: the strictest attention on the part of visitors, only going to prevent a few gross abuses. They should be persons, therefore, who not only merely perform their duty; but who feel alive to the welfare of the patients, and the interest of the institution. In short, on this depends the regularity of all the internal economy of the house, and the success of every thing else. It will be in vain that the finest situation, the best adapted house, and the most healthy employments are provided, unless the medical attendant possesses sufficient intelligence and discrimination to determine what is best adapted to the case of each patient, according to the different states of the mind, and their bodily health. For it is to be observed, that many circumstances may exist, unknown to any but a medical man, that would render some employment at certain periods very prejudicial; instances of which cannot, with propriety, be given here. Nor will this discrimination be sufficient, unless with the judgment that

points out whatever ought to be done, he unites activity and exertion enough daily to see it put in practice. It is evident, therefore, that for the patients to have all the care they require, there should be never more than can, with comfort, be attended to ; from 100 to 120, are as many as ought to be in any one house ; where they are beyond that number, the individual cases cease to excite the interest they ought ; and if once that is the case, not one-half the good can be expected to result. It would be possible, certainly, for a medical man, if he had nothing else to do, to attend to a greater number ; but the advantage of uniting in one person the superintendent, steward, and apothecary, are so numerous as more than counterbalances the good that may result from a small increase of patients in one establishment.—It is absolutely necessary, that to manage such a house, and such inhabitants, the heads of it ought to possess the most sovereign authority over all the rest ; and consequently to be accountable for every thing. The effects arising from the want of such an arrangement in the asylum at York, and from the introduction of it into the Retreat, have surely been sufficiently exemplified. At the former, there appeared no person, who had a sufficient control over the servants and patients ; at least, if such power did really exist, it was placed where it could not be used to advantage. Though the physician ought, I think, to have the

most implicit obedience paid to his directions, respecting the medical treatment of the patients ; yet if he does not live upon the spot, it is impossible for him to be answerable for the abuses that exist, in the management of the house. I cannot, therefore, but think it unreasonable to expect it; not that I mean to justify the wretched and miserable state in which the patients were there found ; but the apothecary and the steward, considering themselves each at the head of his own apartment, thought they had neither of them any business to interfere with the other ; and so among them the patients suffered : and this must ever be the case, more or less, when the duty of one person is divided into two or three departments.—

At the Retreat, on the contrary, the friends saw the necessity of finding two respectable married people, who, acting as the master and mistress of a large family, had judgment and zeal to conduct it aright ; for to the highly meritorious conduct of Mr. and Mrs. JEPSON, in so fully putting in practice the excellent plans laid down, principally, I believe, by Mr. TUKE and the committee of friends, is to be attributed the well-deserved reputation of that establishment. There is nothing, I am persuaded, in the three departments, but may be managed by any one intelligent medical man, and the uniting them all affords an opportunity of giving a more liberal salary, such as might induce a person, of respectable talents,

to undertake the situation. At the asylum, at Nottingham, there is a regulation, which, if generally acted upon, would be attended with great advantage, viz. that of having an apprentice in the house. The difficulty of procuring medical men for such situations would, by this means, in a few years be done away. The number of servants, must, of course, depend on the number of patients. In pauper establishments there are so many of them capable of doing work, that the principal business of the servants will be to look after them.

Some difference of opinion having existed respecting the best mode of confinement, I would beg to make a few observations upon that subject. A great deal depends on the length of time it is necessary to confine a patient: when it is only for a short period, the strait waistcoat is better than any other mode; but when patients are very powerful, as well as violent, for a great length of time together, it will be found very distressing, both from the heat it occasions, and the very confined position in which the arms are kept. Having found this inconvenience in one patient, a pair of strong leather cuffs, locked round the wrist and fastened to a belt going round the waist, were substituted, and found also to answer the purpose in every other case, with but one exception. In that the patient's hand



to find the situation. At the same time
 however, there is a possibility, which is
 generally not taken into account, that the
 most advantage of the fact of having an agency
 lies in the fact that the difficulty of procuring
 medical care for such persons would, for the
 reason that a few years ago, the same
 has not been a great deal of money spent on the
 number of patients. In regard to this, however,
 there are many of them who are of this kind,
 that the principal business of the work will be
 to find other things.

There is a great deal of money that is
 being the best kind of treatment, I would
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was so small, that she could withdraw it from any thing fastened round the wrist, unless it was improperly tight. Iron hand-cuffs, for that reason, could not be employed; in the strongest strait waistcoat, made of sail cloth, she contrived to bite a hole in the upper part of the arm, through which she got her hand at liberty, and unfastened the other; no alternative was then left but shutting her up in a cell where she could do no mischief. It is proper, however, to observe, that this patient was frequently tranquil, and was permitted to walk about in the gardens, and even assist in domestic occupations.

Thus far, Sir, I had proceeded, when I received the *British Review* for November, in which there is a long article on this subject, wherein the means recommended to remedy the existing evils are in one respect very different to those I consider necessary. They are enforced too with an advantage of style and composition I am very unequal to, but I will endeavour to demonstrate the propriety of the plan I propose.

The melancholy instances which we have of all ranks in society being liable to this disease, are so numerous, that the objections which exist both to public and private houses ought to be viewed as they are likely to operate on those of the highest, as well as those in the lowest ranks;

and that there is a necessity for the legislature to extend its protection to the afflicted in the higher circles, and prevent their being placed in situations ill adapted to their cure, or under the care of those incompetent to ~~their~~ proper management, is evident from the abuses to which they are found liable. So strongly do I feel the necessity of this, that I consider, if it be not done, to use the language of Dr. Alderson, whom I cannot mention without acknowledging how greatly I am indebted to him for information, both on this, and other medical subjects, "but half a remedy will be applied to this great and crying evil—*they must legislate for the Insane.*" I shall now therefore proceed, as I intended to state my reasons for preferring public to private establishments. If the variety of means before mentioned are necessary to be used to restore the mind to health, and keep the patients in comfort, an examination of the present private houses, and the management they are under will be sufficient to convince any one, that a public establishment, if properly conducted, must have a great advantage over any private one. In the first place, scarcely any of the houses of the latter have been erected for the purpose, and those at all acquainted with the disease well know, that the usual mode of constructing houses for private families, is ill adapted to accommodate the insane when in a state of violence, or great imbecility; that

there are very few that can even be altered, so as to furnish the necessary means for employment, restraint, and cleanliness; that, to afford every facility for the cure which the nature of the disease requires, it is necessary a house, with grounds, gardens, &c. should be built, and laid out for the purpose: that a medical man should reside there; and that an intelligent physician should direct the medical treatment. It will be seen then, that a very considerable capital will be required, and that the whole time of the medical resident should be devoted to it. From these circumstances, it cannot be expected, that a sufficient number of proper places, to accommodate the insane, as they ought to be, will be provided by professional men, and more particularly when it is considered, that, by the time of life, a medical man is fit for such a situation, if he has sufficient abilities to conduct it properly, he will have formed for himself a good practice in the other branches of his profession; and, consequently, that he will not give up the certainty of the one, for the uncertainty of success in the other. Therefore, it is that, though a great many private ones have been established, and much good has been done; yet almost all of them have been conducted by servants; that is, the medical principal does not himself reside upon the spot, and give his whole attention to it; and it is almost impossible to find persons in the class of

society, from which servants are taken, that are at all fit for the management of such situations, independent of their want of medical knowledge. The consequence is, that little or nothing is done, in comparison to what ought to be, to promote their recovery. It may seem extraordinary that being situated exactly in this way myself, I should make such a confession, and still more so, when 12 patients out of 26, who have been under our care, were discharged perfectly well in the first year; some very violent, some melancholy, and others amended. In mentioning this, I do not at all wish to attach any credit to myself, as I believe it has been owing to their being kept almost constantly employed in the gardens, and to the judicious medical treatment, prescribed for them by Dr. ALDERSON; not that I mean it to be understood Dr. A. has any nostrum to administer; he values general reputation too highly; but to their bodily complaints being so watched as to prevent their having any unfavourable influence on the mind: it is, indeed, from having seen what has been done under many disadvantages, that I feel desirous much more should be done. It is not, therefore, probable that many private madhouses can have the advantage of situation, convenience, and medical treatment, equal to a public one; nor can they be subject to the same general inspection.

In almost every other profession and business competition alone is sufficient to produce every improvement and advantage that can result from science and industry ; but in private houses, for the reception of the insane, as they are at present conducted, this is not the case. In the first place, few of the friends of the insane are capable of judging what ought to be done for the complaint in general, and still less of the treatment suited to many particular cases ; and, therefore, are contented if they only find them clean and well fed—the cure of the patient, which in every other malady is considered so desirable, is here, also, frequently little regarded. In other diseases, if a patient does not recover under the care of one medical man, another, and another is called in, and it becomes therefore a matter of great interest to the practitioner, to exert himself to recover his patient, and increase his reputation ; but there is not the same inducement in the cure of the insane : cases occurring where the advantages arising from keeping the patient, without any risk of losing him from his not getting better, being greater than can possibly result from any increase of his reputation ; and it is to this point I would particularly draw your attention, conceiving that from the proprietor deriving his sole advantage from his patients remaining under his care, is to be ascribed a great share of one of the evils that exist. For

the cure of the paupers, the parish officers, as may be expected, are very indifferent, and rarely or ever enquire after them; and I am sorry to add, that so much does this indifference prevail in the middle classes of society, that I fear Mr. BAKEWELL's observation before your committee of nine out of ten of the relatives of the insane being equally so, is but little overrated. If then this want of proper feeling and attention be found to exist in the middle orders of society, which have always been considered as possessing the strongest feeling of relative affection, what is to be expected in the higher orders, where, certainly, from being more independent of each other for their pleasure and happiness, these endearments have less influence, and where, at the same time, it frequently happens that a considerable property is to be derived from the continuance of confinement. In each class it cannot be doubted a great many are very improperly confined: indeed, it would be expecting much more from human nature than our present knowledge of it will justify, to suppose it can be otherwise. The temptation must be removed before the evil can cease to exist. It may seem difficult to account for, but in a great many cases there is certainly a reluctance on the part of the relative to remove those who have been insane from their confinement, if they have themselves only what will just pay their expenses; or even if it does not press particularly

hard on those they are dependent upon. It cannot, therefore, be a matter of surprise if this should be found to be the case, where a person, who possessing a thousand a year is placed in a private house at the expense of three hundred, and some relative, as long as he continues there, enjoys the other seven. In such a case, where the proprietor is even desirous of doing his duty in this respect, and recommends his patient to be removed; yet on his friends wishing for his longer continuance, how likely is it for his interest to suggest to him the possibility of a relapse; and the patient's confinement being thus a great advantage to both parties, he is kept deprived of his liberty.

That the confinement of some patients is sometimes continued after it is proper they should be tried at liberty, was clearly shewn on inspecting the asylum at York, soon after the late fire took place. In this, which, though a public establishment, had all the mischief of a private house attached to it, by allowing the emoluments of the physician to arise from the continuance of the people in the house, no less than 30 patients were discharged on inspection in one day, with the consent of the medical men. How much earlier they might have been discharged, or how much longer they would have remained, if this inspection had not taken place, I pretend not to say. For this evil, I am not aware any remedy whatever can

...the first of these things is the...
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...the first of these things is the...
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be found out, so long as the regular medical attendant has an interest directly or indirectly in the patient's remaining in the house. Some uncertainty may at all times exist as to patients continuing in a state of sanity, and yet there can be no doubt of the propriety in many cases of their being set at liberty, as an experiment, particularly if during their derangement they exhibited no disposition to injure either themselves or others; and still, in such cases, if the parties were agreed to keep the patient, even a jury, from a little extravagance of expression on the part of the patient, would hesitate to order his release; although his erroneous opinion might have no tendency to injure either the person or property of any one, or do violence to the rules of decency. At present, a certificate of insanity from any medical man, once granted, perfectly exonerates the keeper of a madhouse from punishment, for detaining his patient after he is perfectly restored: a very dangerous power this to be intrusted in the hands of any individual.

The objections then to *private* madhouses, are the general unsuitableness of the houses and grounds; the want of a resident medical attendant, and of general inspection; with the inducement to keep patients improperly confined. The objections to *public* madhouses, certainly seem very strong from the evidence before the committee;

but on due examination, it will be found, that the abuses in many of them have arisen from the bad laws by which they have been governed ; the proprietors having, as I have observed before, either had an interest in the patients remaining, or they have considered them only as the means of filling their own private establishments, and have paid no further regard to them, than what they thought necessary to answer that purpose. Numerous as the patients are, the medical man does not reside upon the spot ; and even when the visits are paid, that indifference to the welfare and comfort of the patients, is apparent, which might be expected where they are looked upon only as secondary objects. Let but a sufficient inducement be held out to make them primary objects, and the whole circumstances of this deplorable class of our fellow creatures will be entirely changed. It is urged that the salaries being secure to the attendants, they have no stimulus to exertion ; for *that* a remedy will easily be found by an addition in proportion as they conduct themselves well.

The secrecy with which almost every one in the middle and higher classes wish their friends to be kept, and which they think cannot be preserved in a public place, will be more difficult to get the better of. I shall attempt, however, to shew, in the first place, that, this wish of secrecy

proceeds from false views ; and secondly, that a person being deranged, is as little known in a public as a private house.

The calamities which overtake us, that are neither brought on by our vices nor our imprudence, and over which we can have no possible control, though they may be painful to the feelings, ought never to distress us with shame. So far then as the disease is hereditary no greater sense of disgrace should be felt by any one in consequence of relatives being afflicted with insanity, than where they have gout, or any other bodily disease, usually considered hereditary ; and yet such is the inconsistency of mankind, that I am afraid there are but few who do not think themselves less disgraced by a relative's becoming grossly immoral in his conduct, than by becoming insane. This can only be accounted for, from the almost universal prevalence of the opinion, that if one branch of a family be in that state, the rest are all liable to it. When derangement arises from physical causes that is probably the case ; but I am disposed to think that it more frequently arises from moral causes, in which case it certainly is not hereditary, and is to be traced to errors of education. So strongly, indeed, am I persuaded of this, from cases I am well acquainted with, that I consider " it should be as much the object of the teachers of

youth to subjugate the passions, as to discipline the intellect; the tender mind should be prepared to expect the natural and certain effects of causes: its propensity to indulge an avaricious thirst for that which is unattainable, should be quenched; nor should it be suffered to acquire a fixed and invincible attachment to that which is fleeting and perishable." Even this is not sufficient: the mind should be early directed to those objects which are alone worthy of its being fixed upon; to that which will prevent it from being too much elevated by prosperity, or depressed in the hour of adversity. From this being too much neglected, I believe there are a great many whose passions are naturally violent, who, though they are sane, would become otherwise, if all their hopes and expectations of promised happiness in this life, were suddenly blasted. Instead then of its being at all times thought an hereditary disease, and therefore unavoidable, if it were viewed in its proper light, and every attention paid to the forming of the minds of youth, and strenuously cautioning them against that solitary vice* which by its baneful effects emaci-

* It has struck me as remarkable on going over various public and private houses, that a patient under the age of puberty is never seen, nor have I met with any account of more than two children exhibiting signs of madness. How far insanity may be produced by the improper influence of certain passions, is, I think, a matter worthy of serious consideration.

ates the body more than any thing else, and produces such imbecility of mind as renders it unable to sustain the shocks we all have to pass through in this state of probation, much fewer cases of insanity, I believe would be found to occur. That persons under every varied mode of education, have become insane, I am well aware, and on that account this part of the subject has been thrown into much obscurity, but I am inclined to think, that very generally when insanity takes place in those who have had a proper bias given to the mind from early life, if it could be clearly investigated, it would be found to arise from physical causes. If, after all that can be said, it is still thought that secrecy is so very desirable; it will be found equally in an asylum, under the management of the justices, as in a private house; as in the latter they must either be left uninspected, or, if properly inspected, the inmates will be as well known as in the public ones.

Before I enter upon the plan I would propose to be adopted for the general management of the insane, I will recapitulate what has been before observed, more clearly to illustrate it. That persons in a state of insanity in whatever rank of life they are, require to be under the management of others. That the number of insane is much greater than has been generally thought. That

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But I am not sure that I would
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 interested, but I am not sure that I
 believe in a state of mind in which
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 of them. That the mind is not a
 greater than the state of mind.

houses, grounds, &c. are required, on purpose for their use. That, to take advantage of every opportunity of doing good to the patients, a medical man should reside upon the spot, and have the direction of the patients. That a considerable capital will be required to form proper places. That abuses do, and will exist, until private houses are done away, and an inducement held out to those in public situations, to exert themselves for the benefit of the patient.

In order to determine upon the number of places that will be required for the reception of lunatics, it will be very necessary to know, as exactly as possible, how many there are, and their situation in life ; which can be done only by the Legislature's ordering correct returns throughout the kingdom. Whatever the number may prove to be, for every 100 lunatics a proper establishment should be erected by the counties : the asylum for the paupers being distinct from those for the higher circles ; the latter of which ought to have apartments adapted to the different situations of life the patient may have been accustomed to live in ; and if in any county, or division of county, it should be found the number of paupers, or other insane persons did not each amount to 100, or near it, the counties should unite, as they are now allowed, to do, provided that when so united, each establishment shall not contain more than

120. This, on the first view, will probably be thought attended with great expense, and in the present depressed state of affairs impolitic to adopt; but so far, Sir, am I from considering that such a step would be any very great expense to the counties, that I do not believe it would cost more than is now paid by the respective parishes. It is not because the insane, as a body, do not pay what is sufficient to cover every expense attending them; but because it is improperly applied. Let the counties but receive the whole sums that are now paid for taking care of the insane; by the parishes, for the paupers, and from the relatives of other insane persons, and it will be found, not only amply sufficient to defray the expense, but also to pay interest for the sum expended in buildings.

I would therefore propose, that the counties borrow money to erect buildings, for both paupers and others; and the surplus from the affluent classes, will be found equal to any deficiency that may arise from the other. But the pauper establishments alone, according to the rate the parishes are now paying, which is from 10 to 14s. per week, (I will take the average at 12s.) would very nearly, if not entirely pay their own expenses. Suppose a county without an asylum of its own, to have 100 paupers to provide for, at 12s. per week, each; that would be £3120 per year, ex-

clusive of the expence of conveying such persons to the adjacent county, which, according to the distance, would be from 2 to 5*l.* each. For the maintainance alone of the paupers, 7*s.* per week would amply provide every thing they could want, which amounts to £1820, leaving a balance of £1300. £14000 I think would provide every accommodation and security necessary for 100 patients, if four or six single beds for those who are not violent or mischievous, were placed in one room. The interest of which sum would be £700; £600 would then remain to defray in part the extraordinary expenses and the salaries. In the establishments for insane persons, not paupers, of course a proper sum would be charged according to the situation in life of each patient.

With the friends of the insane, great objections have no doubt existed against sending their relatives to a public madhouse. That impression has in some degree arisen from these buildings being principally for the reception of the poor, and from its being imagined that the situation of their friends would be more known, and with some, that they would not be so well taken care of. But if an asylum for the reception of persons in the higher orders, be distinct and remote from the one for paupers; and if no more publicity is given in that than is absolutely necessary should be the case in a private house; and that better op-

portunities will be afforded in the public ones for the cure of the patients, than it is at all probable will exist in the other ; and that no improper treatment can take place—the advantages will be seen to preponderate so much in favor of public asylums, that they must be preferred by all those whose end in confining their friends is their speedy recovery : and the sooner the means of enabling those who confine them for other purposes are taken away the better. It will be from the latter characters, and the keepers of private houses in general, that the great opposition to this measure is to be expected. On the one part it will most likely be urged, that they should not be compelled to send their relatives to a public asylum, if it does not meet their approbation. Certainly not, and a provision for that purpose should be made by licencing a private house to receive *one lunatic patient*, provided the person keeping it is approved of. On the other it will be said, that it cannot be adopted without great injustice to the present keepers of private houses, who have, at considerable expense, fitted them up for the reception of lunatics ; and to whom, notwithstanding, many abuses have existed, the country is indebted for providing for the insane, who would otherwise have been totally neglected. To prevent this being the case, I would, in the first place, propose that where the house is at present well adapted for the purpose,

or even if it should be thought advisable either to alter, or add to it, to make it so, the counties should purchase the premises, and let them be continued for the same purpose, only under the justices, instead of the private person. That if they were originally built for the residence of a private family, and have had but few alterations made in them, and consequently are ill adapted to the purpose, they should be again let as private houses, and the counties bear the loss of any trifling sum that may be incurred. That the furniture, a great part of which would not be fit for private families should also be purchased by the counties ; and lastly, that where a medical man had devoted his time to this business alone, and there was nothing objectionable in his character, he should still be continued the director, with a liberal salary ; and where the persons keeping them are in an inferior rank of life, they might be provided for as principal male and female keepers. Upon this plan no injustice would be done to any one. It will probably be said, the public would allow nothing adequate to what was lost ; but in answer to that, I would observe, that as the public would desire no profit from the insane, and the sums paid being amply sufficient, with the disposition there exists in this country, fully to appreciate and reward merit, there can be no doubt but they would allow a sum adequate to their services, in which case no



...as soon as it should be thought of...
...to allow us to do it in some way...
...should position the government and let them be
...convinced for the new purpose, only under the
...position, instead of the present position. That is
...they were originally built for the maintenance of a
...private family, and have had but few alterations
...which is to be made and consequently the old adapted
...to the purpose they should be given for as private
...houses, and the committee have the plan of an
...building now that may be desired. That the
...household a great part of which would not be in
...the private families should also be provided for
...the committee, and lastly, that there is a building
...now that should be used in the business school
...and there was nothing appropriate to the site
...except, he thought, will be convenient the building
...with a limited salary, and where the government
...building there was in an inferior rank of the city
...might be provided for as principal part and
...house building. I think this plan as a building
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one could then complain. If the practitioner did not reside upon the spot, and had not given up the other branches of his profession, and should not choose to accept such a situation, he could not certainly sustain any injury equal to the public advantages that would be derived from the change.

The direction then of the houses for the reception of every class of the insane, would be in the hands of the public, except where, on the first change, as might be expected, some few would prefer keeping their friends at home, or place them in a house, licenced to receive a single individual. No interest being promoted by patients being confined improperly, that circumstance is not likely to take place; and the only evils they could then be subject to, would be their not having proper pains bestowed upon them to promote their cure, or inattention to food and cleanliness. To obviate the former, a bounty over and above the regular salary, should be given by government to those who discharge the greatest proportion cured in each year, according to their numbers; but to prevent their being improperly set at liberty by their medical attendants, for every patient who relapsed within six months after being discharged, two should be deducted from the number of cured, and of course their numbers not calculated till after that time. To obviate the other evil, and secure a proper attention to

their daily wants, inspection is absolutely necessary. When the rules and acts of parliament are examined by which public asylums and private houses are governed, it would, at first sight, be thought, that any further inspection than is already directed, would be unnecessary ; but when it is considered what the duties of an inspector are, it will no longer be a matter of surprise, that they have not been properly fulfilled by those appointed to them. It has been found that it is not merely examining and passing accounts, and cursorily viewing the patients, and wards, at set periods, that is sufficient. The duty of an inspector must descend to the most trifling minutiae. It is even necessary for him to see that the persons, cloaths, and beds of the patients are not filthy ; that the straw and dirt of the unclean patients is properly removed ; and that the whole management of the place carries with it the appearance of this being regularly the case. Now all this cannot be expected to be attended to by such characters as his Grace the Archbishop of York, Earl FITZWILLIAM, the Earl of Shaftsbury, and such gentlemen as are usually chosen the governors of public asylums. His Grace will attend to the duties of his diocese, and their lordships watch over the rights of the country, and may so far attend to the business of an asylum as to examine the general outline of the plans ; but to the other they cannot possibly condescend.—

But even the inspection of private gentlemen, who would take the trouble of looking into these things would not alone be sufficient. From their being unacquainted with what may be done for the disease, they cannot decide upon every thing they see doing. In order, therefore, to prevent the scandalous abuses that have been found to exist ; inspectors must be appointed by the Legislature to assist the justices and governors in detecting what may be wrong, and in pointing out a remedy for it. Who these inspectors ought to be, and how the office is to be regulated, so as to render it efficient, is an object of great importance. It must be obvious, that no one can be a sufficient judge of the treatment proper to be adopted for the cure of any disease, if they have not first studied and carefully attended to it. The inspectors then should be chosen out of those who have had the best opportunities of acquiring information, and who have had industry and talents to profit by them.*

* Unless the inspectors be characters of this description, who have had THEMSELVES THE MANAGEMENT OF LUNATICS, it will be impossible for them to determine, if those around them do their duty, or they may be led to judge harshly where no fault exists. A person, for instance, who had not frequently witnessed the mischievousness and perverse dirtiness of some patients, on going into their sleeping rooms early in a morning, might be led to conceive there was great inattention on the part of the keepers ; but to those acquainted with the management of them, it is well known that no power can prevent the offensive state in which some of them will be found ;

How many may be necessary cannot be known, until the number of houses required for the reception of lunatics, and the situations of them are ascertained; but amongst those that are now employed in public and large private establishments, who have devoted their time and attention to it, there can be no doubt, but proper persons will be found, who, stationed in different places, should at all times have access to the asylums in their district. Monthly reports being regularly drawn up by the director of each asylum, the inspector should examine and transmit them, with his own observations to an inspector general; who being himself chosen from amongst those who best understand what ought to be done, should receive all the reports throughout the kingdom, and carefully examining them, draw up an annual report for the house of commons, as is done in various other departments. The providing for the insane being once removed from private persons, and placed in the hands of the public, all the beneficial effects of competition, will, in a short time, be seen to take place. To encourage this, as much as possible, should be an object constantly attended to, and as many steps of advancement as possible should be held

and on the contrary, if they make allowance for this, they are apt to be imposed upon, and are ready to excuse much uncleanness that might be avoided. It is only, indeed, from repeated observations, and a general view of the whole, that a proper opinion can be formed of the management of such abodes.

It is not, as is frequently said, to be known
that the number of persons engaged in the
occupation of farming and the cultivation of the
land is small; but amongst those that are now
engaged in public and large private enterprises
many, who have devoted their time and attention
to it, have not the time, but proper persons
will be found, who, trained in different phases
of the art, have shown in the regions in
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out for those who conducted themselves the best. Much fewer asylums would, of course be wanted for those in the higher orders, than for the paupers ; and the directors should be advanced from the one to the other, with an increase of salary according to their merit. Out of the directors of the asylums for the higher orders, the inspectors should be chosen, and the inspector general from the inspectors.

Such is the general outline of the plan, which I think ought to be adopted, to remedy the present abuses, and prevent others from arising in the future. To have entered into the more minute particulars, and to have answered all the objections that might have been anticipated to such an alteration, would have been tedious and unnecessary, as they must occur to those who have the framing of the bill.

The great pains you have already bestowed, Sir, in investigating the various abuses that exist in these institutions, and your being one of the committee appointed by the House of Commons, to enquire into the state of madhouses, gives me confidence, that when you are again assembled on this subject, the same active measures will be

persevered in, 'That from the light, which the evidence taken before your committee, has already thrown upon it, it will be seen that it is no trifling calamity, distressing a few individuals. That were the numbers afflicted with it to be fully known, every one would be convinced, that it comes home to the bosom and business of every family ; those who have reposed in the most perfect security, having found themselves unexpectedly assailed by it : that alas ! no man can say, his brother, or his son, his wife, or his sister, may not be the next person that falls under its dreadful ravages ; for we find the brightest genius, and the dullest intellect, the bloom of youth, and hoary age, alike its victims ; that in short, no one can say, that in lending his assistance to mitigate the sufferings, and to provide all the means that are requisite for their comfort and recovery, he is not doing it for himself, or for some relative or friend who is now in perfect health. I trust then, Sir, it will be felt to be a subject of national interest ; and that, as the miseries and captivity of the poor African Slaves called forth such strenuous exertions, such brilliant talents to effect their happiness and freedom ; the no less pitiable and wretched, though different condition of these our own countrymen, will arouse the same benevolent feel-

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the heat. It was a sticky, oppressive heat that seemed to wrap around me like a heavy blanket. I had heard that the weather in the South was terrible, but I didn't realize how bad it would be. The sun was beating down on me, and I could feel my skin starting to sweat. I looked up at the sky, which was a pale, hazy blue, and I thought to myself, "This is not what I needed for a vacation."

I had come to the South for a change of scenery, for a little bit of relaxation and peace. I had heard that the people were friendly and the food was delicious. But now, I was feeling like I had been thrown into a furnace. I looked around me, and I saw that I was not alone. There were other people walking around, some of them looking just as uncomfortable as I was. I saw a man in a white shirt and dark trousers, who looked like he was in a hurry. He was walking quickly, and I could see that he was sweating. I saw a woman in a light-colored dress, who was walking slowly and looking up at the sky. She had a worried expression on her face, and I could see that she was also sweating.

I felt a little better when I saw that I was not alone. I knew that I was not the only one who was suffering from the heat. I saw a man in a white shirt and dark trousers, who looked like he was in a hurry. He was walking quickly, and I could see that he was sweating. I saw a woman in a light-colored dress, who was walking slowly and looking up at the sky. She had a worried expression on her face, and I could see that she was also sweating.

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ings in their cause ; and although the complete emancipation of all the unhappy sufferers is not within the reach of human power, yet much may be done to soften those pangs, which cannot be removed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. C. ELLIS.

HULL, Dec. 1, 1815.

P. S. Since the foregoing pages were sent to press, I have received Mr. BAKEWELL's very interesting letter, &c. to the Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to enquire into the state of madhouses, on which I feel it necessary to make a few remarks. On the most material points it will be seen, that we perfectly agree, viz. on the necessity there exists for the Legislature taking under its protection every insane person ; that indeed "every lunatic should be recognised as a child of the state," as a first step towards the amendment of the abuses that exist ; and that situations, affording a great variety of objects to be continually presented to

the view, and constant employment are absolutely necessary for their cure. But I must confess, I am at a loss to comprehend all his plan for remedying the existing evils; as in one place he seems to disapprove of establishments of the size of the Retreat, which, I believe, has never had more than from 60 to 70 patients at one time; and afterwards recommends ten national hospitals that shall accommodate 120 each. Some of his remarks also on the nature, causes, and cure of mental derangement, I am equally at a loss fully to understand. That may be my own fault; but from finding many very excellent observations dispersed in different parts of the pamphlet, I regret the author has not more clearly elucidated the whole. I have derived, however, great satisfaction in finding that my limited means for observation have led me to nearly the same conclusions, to which this gentleman's more extensive practice has conducted him. The public, also, are much indebted to him for the strong cases he has brought forward in support of his argument.

In speaking of the Retreat at York, I think Mr. B. has formed his opinion rather hastily.— Had he known that Mr. JEPSON, as well as being superintendent, was also an apothecary, and that an intelligent physician prescribes for the patients, he would scarcely have considered it as “quite deficient in medical treatment;” nor



The first and simplest experiment in electricity
concerns the electric force. When I connect a
cell to a wire or lamp, the wire glows and the
lamp lights. The electric current flows from the
cell through the wire. The direction of the flow is
from the positive terminal to the negative terminal.
The electric force is the force that causes the
current to flow. It is the force that pushes the
electrons through the wire. The electric force is
caused by the difference in electric potential
between the two terminals of the cell. The
electric potential is the energy per unit charge
that is stored in the cell. The electric potential
is measured in volts. The electric force is
measured in newtons. The electric force is
caused by the electric field. The electric field
is the force per unit charge that is exerted
on a positive charge. The electric field is
caused by the electric potential. The electric
field is measured in newtons per coulomb. The
electric field is the force that causes the
current to flow. The electric field is the force
that pushes the electrons through the wire.

In speaking of the current in a wire, I mean
the electric current. The electric current is the
rate of flow of electric charge. The electric
current is measured in amperes. The electric
current is the flow of electrons. The electric
current is the flow of negative charge. The
electric current is the flow of electric charge.
The electric current is the flow of electrons.
The electric current is the flow of negative
charge. The electric current is the flow of
electric charge.

do I think the reasoning, which has led them, in certain cases, to recommend a full supper to a patient, when sleep could not otherwise be obtained, has justly made them liable to the ridicule Mr. B. thinks they have deserved. The number of cases cured in the Retreat, compared with those in Mr. B.'s establishment, which he considers as sufficient to support his opinion as to the deficiency of the medical treatment of the patients in the former ; and which, on first appearances, has a very imposing aspect, I think I can demonstrate is not sufficient to justify the clearly implied inference, that if the patients in the Retreat had been managed entirely on his plan, a greater number, in proportion, would have recovered. In the first place, I believe the whole treatment, both medical and moral, employed at the Retreat is excellent ; and in the next, the comparatively less number cured in the Retreat may be accounted for without supposing any thing has been left undone for them in the way of medicine. Indeed I consider this circumstance alone of there being fewer cured in the Retreat, than at Spring Vale, as fully establishing the opinion I have before given ; that insanity arises more frequently from moral than physical causes ; and that a proper bias being given to the mind in early life, would frequently prevent its occurrence.

I have not the least connexion with the Society of Friends in any way whatever ; but I cannot withhold the high opinion I entertain of the excellent system of education they adopt for their youth. Amongst those whose minds are so early stored with right principles and useful information, the effect of any sudden change of circumstances is not likely to produce the same direful consequences, as where no such previous correct opinions have been formed ; and besides this, the *external* moral conduct, to say no more, that this class of society, are obliged to observe, is such as to prevent a great many cases of insanity arising from drunkenness, and other debauchery. It will then necessarily follow, that a great portion of the moral causes which in general society produce the greatest number of insane cases, do not with this body of people exist, in the same proportion ; and that therefore the principal part of the insane cases at the Retreat, if they could be properly investigated, would be found to arise from physical causes ; and as these are by far the worst to cure, the reason of the numbers cured appearing so small, compared with those in Mr. B's. house is readily accounted for.—Mr. B. gives us a long list of his cases, where the patients have been intemperate, and many very intemperate. Insane cases, arising from this cause ; I am sure it is unnecessary for me to point out, are with proper management generally

soon recovered ; but of these, few, very few, are found in the Friend's Retreat : persons of such gross immoral conduct not being allowed to continue in their society, and when removed from it, would not be admitted into that establishment.

I differ also from Mr. B. as to separate establishments for the Incurables. I would certainly have them kept distinct from the other class, but remain in the same house. Cases have occurred where the patient has recovered after all hope of such a result had been given up, by the application of vigorous means. Of this, an instance has recently occurred at the asylum at Nottingham. Now the effect of having a house containing none but those considered incurable, would paralyse all efforts to amend them ; and their being thought objects for whom nothing could be done, in the way of cure ; people of inferior talent, might probably be allowed to superintend them. On the contrary, were no one ever to be considered absolutely incurable, on any favorable change taking place, he might, without difficulty, be allowed to associate with those in a state of convalescence ; and his mind might, by such treatment, gradually recover its strength. I quite agree with him, that no patient should be impressed with the idea that the disease is ever incurable ; but by their mixing together, I do not know how any patient is to

discriminate those who are considered so. That impression would be much more encouraged by their knowing, that the number of incurable cases was so great, as to require separate establishments. That asylums, provided by the county, would be "county jobs" I cannot think. Abuses have certainly existed in county hospitals, but they have arisen more from the justices and governors not knowing what was necessary to be done, than from any improper motives on the part of the individuals. The large national establishment of Bethlem, appears to have had as many abuses practised in it, as in any county asylum.

I had intended to subjoin a list of cases which have fallen under my notice, in support of the opinions I have expressed in the body of the letter, but the cases given by Mr. BAKEWELL, being so numerous, and the treatment very similar, I now think it unnecessary.

