

**The observations of the Governors upon the report of the Commissioners
in Lunacy to the Secretary of State on Bethlem Hospital : with appendices.**

Contributors

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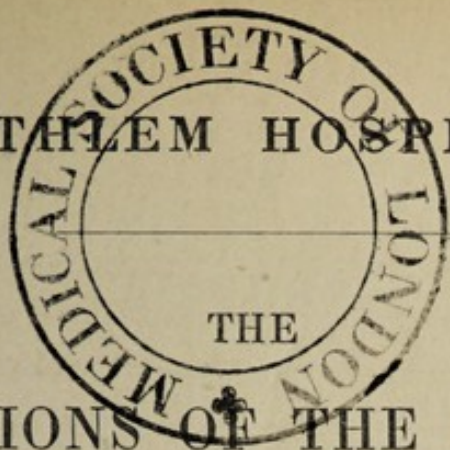
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BETHLEM HOSPITAL.



OBSERVATIONS OF THE GOVERNORS

UPON

THE REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY

TO

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

ON

BETHLEM HOSPITAL,

WITH APPENDICES.

Ordered by the General Committee to be Printed, November, 1852.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY DAVID BATTEN.

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TO THE

RIGHT HON. SPENCER HORATIO WALPOLE, M.P.,

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

SIR,

WE have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying observations of the General Committee for conducting the affairs of the Royal Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem, both upon the Report which was laid before the Secretary of State, by the Commissioners in Lunacy, with reference to Bethlem Hospital, and upon the Evidence on which such Report purports to be founded.

With a view of facilitating your consideration of the whole of the subject matter of such Report and Evidence, the General Committee have directed that Copies of all Correspondence, of all Resolutions that have been passed, and of all Directions which have been given relating, in any way, to matters which have engaged the notice of the Commissioners in Lunacy, should be appended to this Communication; and the General Committee desire, through us, to express their confident belief that, upon that careful and impartial examination which the whole case will now receive from you, embracing those important changes in the Medical Staff of the Hospital which were made concurrently with the suggestions of the Commissioners, the result will be satisfactory.

We have the honour to be,

With great respect,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servants,

P. LAURIE, *President.*

J. E. JOHNSON, *Treasurer.*

By Order of the General Committee,

B. WELTON, *Clerk.*

OBSERVATIONS.

As a considerable period has elapsed since the 21st of February last, when the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, on the Condition and Management of Bethlem Hospital, was transmitted to the Governors of that Institution by the Secretary of State; from which a disinclination on the part of the Governors to enter on the consideration of that document may be erroneously inferred, it is necessary to premise, that any delay which has occurred is not attributable to the Governors, but to circumstances over which they had no control.

On receipt of the Report and Evidence, the latter forming, in manuscript, a very bulky document, the Governors, it will be seen, directed it to be printed for the use of the General Committee in the first instance,* it being manifestly impossible for the members of that Committee to make themselves acquainted with the subject matter of the Report in the form in which it was forwarded. The Commissioners in Lunacy (as the Governors have reason to believe) hearing of this resolution, thought proper, for some reason, to communicate with the Secretary of State, who, on the 27th March, prohibited the Governors from printing the document without his sanction; and it was not until the 2nd April, after further correspondence, that the Governors received permission from Mr. Secretary Walpole to distribute copies of it, on the condition that they should only be “transmitted, *in the strictest confidence*, to the Members of the Committee.”

Even when circulated in this limited way, the Governors were not in a condition to enter upon the consideration of it. The Report reflected, in strong terms, upon the Physicians, the resident Apothecary, and the Matron, as to the discharge of their respective duties; and until the Governors were furnished with such explanations as these Officers might think fit to offer,

* Five hundred copies were printed for circulation, when requisite, amongst the Governors, to whom indeed the Report was addressed.

further progress was impossible. The Physicians and Apothecary first applied for copies of the Report to the Governors, who were precluded from supplying them by the terms of the Secretary of State's letter. One of the Physicians, and the Apothecary, then wrote, as it is said, to the Secretary of State to the same effect, but were informed, as the Governors understand, that their requests could not be granted. In the mean time, the Governors were applied to by the Home Secretary for their Observations on the Report ; and on their representing the impossibility of complying with his requisition until the Officers affected by the Report were allowed to examine and answer it, they received permission, (on the 25th June,) to furnish them with copies, "upon condition that

Page 36. "such copies *are not made use of* for any purpose except that of "preparing answers by the Officers to the statements made in the "Report."

Pages 47,
53, 85.

The Remarks of the Physicians and the Matron were received as hereinafter stated, but no Remarks have been received from the Apothecary for the reasons assigned in his Letters. It will thus be seen that the Governors are in no degree responsible for any delay, which they were most anxious to avoid.

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Although the Governors were, from the first, aware that the Commissioners were exceeding the powers of investigation specified by the 8th and 9th Vict. c. 100, s. 116, and that their enquiry was extended to matters entirely foreign to their jurisdiction ; nevertheless, having no desire but to ascertain and amend any defects in the administration of the Hospital, they raised no question as to the regularity of the proceedings.* Indeed, the Commissioners state that "every facility was afforded by the Governors "of Bethlehem Hospital to enable us to pursue our enquiries." The

* 8 & 9 Vict. cap. 100, sec. 116.—"And be it Enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to the Royal Hospital of Bethlehem, or any building adjacent thereto and used therewith : Provided always, that it shall be lawful for any Commissioner or other Person, whom the Lord Chancellor, or any one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State shall at any time, by an order in writing, under the hand of the said Lord Chancellor or Secretary of State, direct *to visit and examine the Royal Hospital of Bethlehem, and every or any building adjacent thereto as aforesaid, and every or any person confined therein.*"

Governors notice this, for the purpose of guarding against their being supposed to admit the authority of the Commissioners in Lunacy beyond the limits expressed in the statute.

The scope of the material part of the evidence is to impute cruel and improper usage on the part of the attendants towards the patients, and neglect on the part of the medical and other Officers of the Establishment ; which the Commissioners support by reference to five cases out of an Institution containing, on an average, as stated by the Commissioners, nearly four hundred patients ; and admitting about three hundred and forty annually, of whom nearly half are discharged cured.

Few things are more easy than to excite a cry of cruelty against the management of a lunatic asylum, and few more difficult to disprove, even where no real cause exists. No one who has ever visited a lunatic asylum can be ignorant of this fact. The first and eager complaint of a large proportion of lunatics, especially those labouring under acute mania, and recently disordered (which is the case with the majority of patients in Bethlem Hospital) is of their removal from their homes, and unjust detention, as they call it, "in a mad-house." In full possession often of bodily strength, and with perceptions sharpened by their disorder which incapacitates them from appreciating, like ordinary invalids, the means adopted for their benefit, their irritation is sometimes excited against the officers entrusted with their care; hence the various means which science and kindness can dictate for alleviating their melancholy condition, are frequently resented and resisted as exhibitions of cruelty and malevolence. These complaints are detailed to their relations and friends when they visit the Hospital, and it is, therefore, not surprising, if some of them, unable, from want of knowledge and education, to discriminate the propriety of the treatment, and worked upon by their own excited feelings, lend a ready ear to statements which, though often destitute of foundation, are detailed with all that apparent truth and minuteness which is yet consistent with lunacy.

Postponing the particular application of these remarks to the specific evidence of the principal witnesses in the five cases of com-

plaint reported upon by the Commissioners, the Governors would direct attention to the very defective means of knowledge possessed by many of the witnesses, upon whose evidence the Commissioners rely. It is also to be carefully noted, that the Commissioners appear to ignore the possibility of any violence on the part of the patients, or of the necessity for any control, and to take for granted the accuracy of every incriminating statement; while evidence of a different tendency is invariably subjected to a rigorous, and, in many instances, not very temperate, cross-examination. The Governors indeed are far from imputing wilful misrepresentation to the witnesses, neither would they have wished to have excluded testimony, however infirm; but when the most important portion of the charges rests upon evidence which, before any tribunal conversant with the elementary rules of evidence, would be excluded from its uncertainty and liability to error, *unless supported by a reasonable amount of corroboration, which is wanting in these cases*; they regret that the Commissioners did not deem it necessary to sift such evidence with, at least, some part of the same care with which they invariably received less unfavourable testimony. This appears peculiarly applicable to two classes of witnesses, on whose evidence most of the charges of cruelty rest, viz., patients who were Lunatics at the time when the occurrences, of which they speak, are alleged to have taken place; and next, Servants who had been discharged for misconduct—the first, from the uncertainty which must, more or less, affect their evidence, in which actual fact may unconsciously and unwittingly be confused and blended with those delusions which constituted their disorder; and the other from the hostile bias with which they may, not uncharitably, be supposed to be actuated.*

The Governors repeat, that they do not wish that such evidence

* Evidence of J. Welsh, an attendant, taken on trial as an attendant, but not engaged:—

3181. Q. How came you to communicate with Mr. Hyson upon the subject?—
A. A young man, who was formerly there as keeper, of the name of Marsden (Marson) informed me. He came to me on the Sunday after I was discharged on the Friday, and said, "If you have seen anything that was not correct towards the Patients, or if you have not been treated well yourself, you can have other redress by applying HERE" (the Office of the Commissioners), and he immediately told me of Mr. Hyson, and I went to him, and that is how I found it out.

should have been excluded, but merely that it had been scrutinized with somewhat of that caution and doubt which the Commissioners bestowed on all evidence of a different tendency.

It is also to be borne in mind, that a very large proportion of the evidence reflecting upon the Hospital is obtained by the Commissioners by the unsparing use of leading questions, and by even suggesting to the witnesses the very form and expression of the answer, to which an assent is the almost necessary consequence; as every one knows the tendency of witnesses, even without any bad motive, to colour the recital of their presumed grievances to sympathizing and undoubting listeners.*

The Governors would now draw attention to the unusual, and as they consider, the objectionable manner in which the Commissioners in Lunacy have conducted this inquiry.

The Commissioners commence their Report by stating that the result of their enquiries on the occasion of their first visit to Bethlem Hospital, was to "disclose facts that appeared to the Commissioners "to deserve a more minute scrutiny:" that such visit arose out of information which had been laid before them, together with certain matter of complaint, and that in consequence they instituted their enquiry,—summoned witnesses, and required the production of several documents, for the purpose of ascertaining, "not only the "special treatment adopted in reference to particular patients, but "also the character of the general arrangements and supervision "of the Hospital."

* Evidence of William Marson, formerly employed at Bethlem Hospital:—

2430. Why did you leave?—*A.* The money was so small; and the treatment I received was very bad indeed.

2431. From whom did you receive bad treatment?—*A.* I received bad treatment from Dr. Wood, and also several others—Mrs. Hunter, for instance.

2432. What kind of treatment do you refer to?—*A.* *Nasty-like.* I was abused every opportunity they could get.

2718. If you were asked the question, where should you say the fault was to be found, principally; in what department?—*A.* *The fault is to be found with Dr. Wood.*

2719. *You think that he is indolent and careless?*—*A.* Yes.

2720. *And he does not take sufficient trouble, you think?*—*A.* No.

2721. *He does not keep the Attendants in sufficient order?*—*A.* Yes, that is what it is.

Assuming the Commissioners had full authority for this course, the Governors feel assured it will be learnt with surprise, that no communication whatever of the existence of any complaint, or the nature of the charges which were to be answered, was made to the Governors, previously to such enquiry being instituted,*—that no one was allowed to represent them at the enquiry,—that no witness connected with the Hospital was informed, when attending to give evidence, that any specific complaint existed, and was in course of investigation,—that each witness was examined professedly to ascertain the scope and nature of his or her respective duties,—that the very serious charges against them were only incidentally referred to,—that as no opportunity whatever was afforded to the Governors of hearing the charges, it was impossible to offer any explanation or defence, had the opportunity for doing so been allowed. And lastly, that the usual and ordinary minor courtesy, of allowing witnesses to correct those errors in their evidence which arise from a hasty examination, the mistakes of the short-hand writer, and of transcription, was not offered.

The Governors submit, that it was the obvious duty of the Commissioners to observe the course followed by every impartial tribunal, viz., to communicate to any person whose conduct is the subject of enquiry, the specific charge against him, and to afford him the full opportunity of meeting it, in the presence of those who make it : and without reference to the manifest injustice of the extraordinary course pursued by the Commissioners, it is difficult to imagine how they could feel themselves justified in arriving at any conclusion whereon to base a Report—without those explanations and answers a different course would have afforded them. It is also to be remarked, that no mention whatever is made in the Report of these deviations from the hitherto invariable mode of conducting an impartial enquiry.

Even if the Commissioners considered it compatible with a fair

* The letter of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the President, dated 27th June, 1852, (mis-laid,) referred to in their letter of the 3rd July, was not received by the President until late in the afternoon of the 28th June, before which their inspection of Bethlem Hospital had been completed.

and candid course to make the enquiry wholly *ex-parte* in the first instance, it was, we submit, their plain and obvious duty to have communicated to the Governors the evidence they had received, and to have afforded them the opportunity of making such observations thereon as they might deem necessary before the Report was prepared.

It is possible that the Commissioners conceived that by their Communication of the 3rd July, 1851, and the 1st August, 1851, they were affording the Governors those opportunities of explanation and defence upon the want of which they animadvert.

The first Communication, however, relates only to the case of Miss A. M., so far as it had then been investigated, and concludes by a request for Copies of the Rules and Regulations of the Hospital.

No specific information as to any other of the five cases reported upon was communicated to the Governors.

The second Communication informs the President of the intention of the Commissioners to transmit their Report to the Secretary of State, and adds,—“ Before, however, so doing, the
“ Commissioners desire to afford the Committee of Governors and
“ yourself an opportunity of making any statements or communica-
“ tion which you or any other Member of the Committee may be
“ disposed to submit for the consideration of this Board.”

With reference to the first part of the communication of the 3d July, it is obvious that the opportunity for any useful explanation had passed, and the inquiry was completed without allowing the Governors or any one on their part to be present during the investigation ; and with reference to the latter part, it will be seen by the Resolution of the Bethlem Sub-Committee that the several documents asked for were transmitted forthwith, accompanied by an assurance on the part of the Governors, of their readiness to co-operate with the Commissioners, and afford every assistance in the investigation of any case relating to the treatment of any patient in the Hospital. And as relates to the communication of the 1st August, 1851, the President, on the day following the receipt of the letter, attended at the Office of the Commissioners,

and informed their Secretary that so long as the Governors were unacquainted with the wishes of the Commissioners and *of what occurred before them*, it was impossible for the Governors to make 'any statements or communications' as suggested.

The Governors feel that an investigation so entirely *ex-parte*, conducted not only without reference to, but in contravention of the first principles of justice, is a subject on which they are bound to animadvert; and while they acquit the Commissioners of any desire to act unjustly, or to create a prejudice against the only Institution exempted from their jurisdiction, and attribute their errors rather to a want of familiarity with the ordinary manner of conducting such enquiries,—they need hardly remind the Secretary of State of the additional necessity for receiving a Report, based on so infirm a foundation, with very great caution.

CONCLUSIONS.

The following are the conclusions at which the Governors have arrived after a careful examination of the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy and the Evidence taken by them.

The Governors have confined themselves strictly to the contents of the Report and Evidence, which they submit fail in many most material points to substantiate the statements of the Commissioners. They might have followed the example of the Commissioners, and have secretly received a mass of evidence from witnesses, and thereon founded a counter Report, but they felt, not only that an enquiry to carry any weight should be conducted openly, and subject to the correction of those whose characters or statements would be affected by such a course, but that the evidence itself, when carefully considered, and due allowances made for the suggestive system of interrogation pursued, by the Commissioners, in contravention of the ordinary elements of evidence, as well as of fairness and propriety, in a great degree, disproves the charges the Commissioners have attempted to establish.

The Governors confidently submit, that on a careful and impartial consideration of the evidence, many of the most important of the conclusions arrived at by the Commissioners are not borne out.

That of the five cases reported upon by the Commissioners, two were cases of patients who were restored to reason by means of the treatment received in the Hospital; and that with respect to the third, which terminated fatally, the testimony of five medical men (of whom two were the medical attendants of the patient and her family) prove, beyond all reasonable doubt, that her death was occasioned by disease of the brain, which had commenced before, and was the cause of her admission into Bethlem.

That the allegations of ill-treatment and neglect of this patient are not supported by any direct or trustworthy evidence, and that the Commissioners themselves admit that there is much conflict of testimony "as to her condition on admission into the Hospital and on her discharge, and also as to the origin and character of the various wounds and abrasions on her body."

That of the two remaining cases there is so much doubt thrown over one of them as to induce the belief that, if the investigation had been conducted openly, a complete refutation of the charge might have been established; and with regard to the last, there is no evidence whatever to show that the mode of ill treatment alleged had, at any time, existed as a practice in the Hospital: and under all the peculiar circumstances of the case, the charge, that it had been resorted to at all, would not be entertained by an impartial tribunal.

That the Treasurer did not deprive the resident medical Officer of the power of classifying and employing the female patients, inasmuch as these duties remained vested in the Physicians, and subject to their absolute control. That the course adopted by the Treasurer was proper and judicious, and had the immediate beneficial effect of increasing the employment and promoting the comfort of the female patients.

That as the duties of the Physicians, as the responsible Medical Authorities of the Hospital, have now ceased, the Governors abstain from any lengthened comment on the manner in which

their respective functions were fulfilled ; but they feel it due to Sir Alexander Morison to express their opinion, that all his proceedings in connexion with the Hospital have been characterised with industry and kindness.

That the alleged practice of " mopping " certain female patients, depending solely on the unsupported evidence of a person at the time insane, is not entitled to belief.

That the use of straw, properly covered with blankets, for the bedding of patients insensible to the calls of nature, is not unsuitable ; but the Governors at the same time express their disapprobation of certain female patients, although of this class, to the number of fifteen, having, in consequence of their infirmities, been placed in bed unnecessarily without a proper supply of night gowns.

That the Rules and Orders of the Hospital are detailed with minuteness, but in consequence of the appointment of a Resident Physician, having paramount authority in the Hospital, a careful revision of the whole has now become necessary, and will be forthwith undertaken.

That the Governors disapprove of the imperfect manner in which the Case-Books of the Hospital have been kept, in disregard of " the explicit terms of the judicious regulations made by them for " this purpose."

That the facilities afforded by the Governors to the Commissioners in this inquiry are not to be taken as admitting the legality of the course pursued by them, or as recognising their authority to proceed as they have done.

That inasmuch as the Commissioners did not communicate to the Governors or to any witness the existence or nature of the charges, general or specific, against the management of the Hospital or the individual witness, either prior to or at the time of examination, nor allow any one to attend the investigation on the part of the Hospital, nor afford the Governors or the witnesses any opportunity of explanation or defence, but prepared and agreed to a Report to the Secretary of State upon an *ex-parte* and secret inquiry; the Governors protest against so unusual a proceeding, and against any

conclusions drawn from a document obviously tainted by preconceived prejudices, and prepared in contravention of the first principles of justice.

These conclusions are fully supported, as the Governors submit, by the following Observations :—

Without referring further to the character of the investigation, the Governors proceed to consider the results of the evidence, which the Commissioners state “appears mainly to embrace the following subjects : viz.—

- “ 1. Miss A. M.’s case.
- “ 2. Miss H. H.’s case.
- “ 3. The cases of Mrs. Elinor W., Mrs. Mary Elizabeth W., & H.
- “ 4. The General Government and Management of the Hospital.”

It thus appears, that with every facility afforded by the Governors, the Commissioners found their Report on the cases of five patients only, out of many hundreds, constantly under treatment, and it will be seen, on further investigation, that the evidence in these five cases, on the showing chiefly of the Commissioners themselves, fail to support the conclusions they deduce, and exhibit in no ordinary degree, that want of caution, which we regret so strongly marks this document.

MISS A. M.’s CASE.

This patient was brought to the Hospital on the 6th Oct. 1850, her petition representing her to be “in impaired health,” and “that she refuses her food, and endeavours to commit suicide.” The case in the Case-Book is described as one of Melancholia, and as being, on admission, “very much depressed, silent, and inert ; it

“is with difficulty that any answer can be got from her, and sometimes all attempts to make her speak are unavailing ; she is not disposed to exert herself in any way, and will not take the trouble to observe ordinary personal cleanliness.”

The medical gentleman who signed her certificate of fitness for admission, says (1978)* “her condition previously to her being received into Bethlem was any thing but good, but it was not so bad but it might be amended,” and although he states (1986), “I certainly found her in a different condition when she came out, from what she was when she went in;” he further states, in answer to the leading question, “From that did you conclude she had been ill-treated ?”—“I cannot do that ; it might have been from natural causes.” Dr. Wood, in his report to the Treasurer of the Commissioners’ Visit to the Hospital, states—“It is well known to all, that her (this patient’s) general health was much impaired, that she was weak and emaciated, and the nurse stated that the prolapsus was reported to me—that I directed her what to do to it—that the treatment was successful, and that the patient did not suffer from it again. One of the Commissioners remarked, that this was a malady that was not cured, and could only be alleviated from time to time. It is, therefore, quite possible, that the patient arrived at Northampton after so long a journey, in the middle of the winter, with a return of the symptoms. The nurse denied that the patient was treated harshly, but believed that some of the other patients had called her ‘Black Sall.’ She also denied that she was ever put to bed without proper covering, or that she was made to wash her own linen. She admitted that the patient’s skin was very red at the bottom of the back and seat, from her being continually wet and dirty, but denied that the skin was broken. The statement about the black eye was believed to be true, but by what accident it occurred could not be remembered.”

The patient herself says she had no night clothing whatever—that she had always insufficient bedding, and sometimes none at all—that she sometimes had an oil-skin or India-rubber cover.

* This number, and such throughout, refer to the numbers of the questions in the copy of the Evidence printed by the Governors.

It is not to be credited that this patient had not at night the usual supply of bedding seen in these bed-rooms every day, and there neither is, nor ever was, in any bed-room any covering of oil-skin or India-rubber.* Her sister, Miss F. M., states, that at the time of Miss A. M.'s admission, "she was in weak bodily health," and for ten days previously "she had refused her food;" and with regard to the night clothing, she makes it part of her complaint, that she (the patient) had on one occasion been obliged to get up and wash her own linen, which she had dirtied, which is inconsistent with the patient's own statement, that she had no night clothing. Miss F. M. states to the Commissioners, that it was "in consequence of my sister's complaints of treatment, added to her personal appearance, and the fact of her being placed on the basement floor, that decided me "to remove her," but nothing is stated in Miss F. M.'s evidence of her having applied (several times it is believed) for permission to obtain the signature of the patient to some document,† which permission was not granted. It is to this refusal, the Bethlem Subcommittee imputed the removal of the patient, as no complaint was ever made to them, or to any of the Officers of her treatment; and, indeed, on the contrary, Miss F. M. in a note to Dr. Monro, speaks of a recommendation from him, that she should pause before removing Miss A. M. from Bethlem Hospital, as an act of "kindness and wisdom." These facts, in conjunction with the denial of the nurses, the absence of corroborative testimony, and the medical

* If any of the witnesses have said there are such coverings in the Hospital, it has been in assent to leading questions, and shows to what inaccuracies questions in such form frequently conduce.

† EVIDENCE OF TREASURER.

116. Do you recollect whether any complaint was made at any time of her (Miss A. M.'s) ill-treatment?—Certainly not, while she was in the Institution. The case of M., as it appeared to us, was this:—She was brought into the Institution, and shortly after a request was made that she should be permitted to sign a legal document, to which I objected. I would not consent, on any consideration, to allow her to sign any document, the object being to obtain money for her through such signature, and I would not consent to it; and her friends suggested it would be better to remove her, and take apartments, and obtain her signature. I said I would have nothing whatever to do with it—if they removed her, they might do so; but I would not permit her to sign any paper while she was there.

opinion, that the state of this patient "might have been from natural causes," throw great doubt on this charge of ill-treatment; and if an opportunity had been afforded, by an open inquiry, other and greater variances might have been discovered, and a complete refutation established.

While drawing attention to the obvious discrepancies in the case of Miss A. M., the Governors are far from charging her with any desire to misrepresent, but attribute them rather to her incompetency as a witness, from having been a Lunatic at the time when the alleged ill-treatment was inflicted, and also from that "nervous and excited state" in which the Commissioners report they found her at the time of her examination, and which rendered her, in their opinion, unfit to be sworn.

The Governors cannot conclude their observations on this case without reference to the following statement by the Commissioners in their Report :—“ In consequence of A. M. complaining repeatedly “of cold, her sister, on one occasion, took a warm jacket to the “Hospital for her ; but the Matron said the patient ‘ could not be “allowed to wear it, as it was too smart.’ ” It will be observed, that the Matron, in her remarks appended to this Report, denies all recollection of such a circumstance ; but even assuming that no misapprehension exists on this point, it would not be right to conclude that such a refusal was that harsh proceeding, which at first sight it may appear to persons unacquainted with the habits and peculiarities of Lunatics. If the jacket was “too smart,” the Matron acted judiciously in not allowing it to be worn.

An application was shortly afterwards made for her removal, on the ground that a change of air would be beneficial to her, and she was taken away. Certainly no complaint was made on the part of her friends of her treatment.

EVIDENCE OF DR. WOOD.

339. Did you hear anything about somebody wanting Miss M. to sign a deed ?
—*Answer* : Yes, her sister came to me, I think, two or three times on the subject. We had a long talk about how it was to be done ; I told her I could not consent while she was there : there was great doubt of the legality of such a step ; besides, I did not think she could sign anything in that state of mind.

Mr. Commissioner Martin reports that "care is taken to prevent any eccentricities in dress;" and any deviation from this wholesome precaution would lead to great confusion and inconvenience amongst a number of patients, many of whom are very excitable on this point. In fact, the cause of a recent dangerous attack by a patient upon one of the attendants, who was for some time in a precarious condition, arose from a cause of this kind. The matron has, at all times, a stock of clothing which is at the service of the patients when required; and the same care to secure their comfort, in this particular, prevails as in 1836, when Mr. Commissioner Martin observes:—"Much attention is paid to the apparel of the patients, particularly with a view to the warmth of the extremities; the male and female patients are provided with flannel drawers, and the men, likewise, with flannel waistcoats."

MISS H. H.'S CASE.

This case depends entirely on the state of the patient when admitted and discharged, and on the conclusion to be drawn from the evidence as to the nature and origin of the appearances on the body after death. It is remarkable, that while the Commissioners close their summaries of the evidence in the five cases, with the expression of unfavourable opinions, yet in this case, on which, nevertheless, much reliance is placed, they confess—"There is so much conflict, however, between the statements made by the several witnesses as to her condition on admission into the Hospital and on her discharge, and also as to the origin and character of the various wounds and abrasions on her body, that we think it better to refer to the accompanying evidence for information on these points." We submit, that while there is conflicting evidence, the weight of testimony exculpates the Hospital from the stigma sought to be cast upon it by the Commissioners in reference to this case. *One* witness only, and *who was a Lunatic at the time*, speaks of any harshness or ill-usage. All the rest is hearsay and inference.

In the absence of direct testimony as to the cause of death, or of wounds, or abrasions, the next most trustworthy evidence is that of medical witnesses; and in this case there is the evidence of Sir Alexander Morison and Dr. Wood, the Physician and Apothecary of the Hospital; Mr. Lawrence, the Surgeon of the Hospital; Mr. Taylor, a surgeon, and the medical attendant of the family, and Mr. Crisp, his partner, also a surgeon. Every one of these five witnesses deny there was any ground for assuming that the death of the patient was occasioned by injury, ill-usage, or want of care and kindness. The two last-mentioned gentlemen, indeed, state, on the *post mortem* examination of the patient, "That the death was clearly referable to disease of the brain, which had existed some months." While Mr. Lawrence, whose eminence and skill are equally admitted, states, after an examination of the body, "He could see nothing leading to the conclusion, or *even the suspicion* "that she had met with ill-usage before death." The Governors can here observe no conflict of testimony, but on the contrary an agreement and corroboration, of a character, which with any unprejudiced tribunal would have been conclusive; and they regret the Commissioners have not evinced a readiness to draw a fair and reasonable conclusion, favourable to the Hospital, at all equal to the promptitude with which they have seized upon testimony of a different tendency. It also deserves remark, that the witness, Mrs. Elinor W., to whom the Commissioners refer as corroborating the statements of ill-usage of this patient, in answer to the question 1644—"Did you ever see any of the nurses strike Miss H.?" replied "*I cannot say I ever saw them strike her.*"

MRS. ELINOR W.'S CASE.

The Governors are at a loss to account for this case being relied upon as any evidence of harsh or improper usage or neglect of the medical and other Officers. The latter conclusion is disposed of by the fact, that this alleged ill-used patient was *discharged cured* from the Hospital after a residence of less than three months; while the

only instances of harsh treatment attempted to be established are, a rap on the knuckles with a broom for climbing up a window, and the use of an offensive expression, though she never complained of either to the matron, when she informed that officer of the ill-treatment she alleged she had witnessed in regard to the other patients. This patient is described (341) as "violent, abusive, dirty, and mischievous:" and although either striking a patient, or the use of offensive language by a nurse or attendant, is a very grave offence, and invariably visited severely, the instances quoted are not sufficiently established to require further comment; and this case would be at once dismissed, but for the fact that it is upon the evidence of this *solitary witness* that the Commissioners affect to believe in the practice of washing some female patients with mops. This witness asserts, that the "dirty patients were daily laid down naked on the stones and washed with "a mop;" but she does not state she herself was ever used in that way; on the contrary, she states that she washed herself and had the usual quantity and description of cloths to dry herself with, although she was a "dirty patient." Not only also is there no corroborative testimony of the existence of this offensive practice, but the evidence of Miss A. M., the subject of the first case, tends to discredit this (Mrs. Elinor W.'s) remarkable statement. Miss A. M. says, "the bathing and washing was very coarse; I was "taken to a sink and washed with a wet towel."* This statement, coupled with the positive denial of the nurses, and the absence of any other testimony whatever in support of the assertion, disentitle it, we submit, to credit. It should be noticed, that the Commissioners do not commit themselves to a belief in this singular narrative, but deal with it as a practice *alleged* to have been resorted to, which they say there is much reason to *fear* had prevailed.

The evidence of this witness is, upon the face of it, in many instances of a nature which shows with what caution it ought to be received. In one part she swears positively that the head nurse,

* All the galleries are provided with proper lavatories, consisting of metal washing basins inserted in slate slabs.

—who for ten years had the charge of that ward, who ate and slept in it, who had received a reward from the Society for the Encouragement of Good Attendants on the Insane, whose evidence, relied upon by the Commissioners, shows that she must have been almost constantly present,—“*never* went round the basement once to her knowledge:” and the second instance is still more extraordinary. In answer to the question put in their usual leading form—“The night nurses never opened the doors of the cells?” *A.* “Never.” It does not appear to have struck the Commissioners, that as this witness was locked every night in her sleeping room, that, even if she were awake during the whole of every night, it would be physically impossible for her to speak with certainty on such a point. Had she been a nurse in charge of the ward she could not have been more a free agent than she represents herself to have been ; nor, if she had been perfectly sane, could she have spoken more confidently as to facts of which it is manifestly impossible she could have any knowledge. Notwithstanding the glaring improbabilities of such evidence, the Commissioners, upon the unsupported evidence of this witness, insinuate their belief in the existence of the alleged practice of mopping, and incautiously add their opinion that this evidence, uncorroborated, unsifted, and as shown in the above instance, actually impossible, is that of a “trustworthy witness.”

MISS M. E. W.’S CASE.

This case exhibits, in a forcible manner, the peculiar mode adopted by the Commissioners in receiving and adopting evidence. Their summary of the case, as stated in the Report, is as follows :—

“ In the case of Miss M. E. W., the testimony of her mother (Mrs. Elizabeth W.), shows that this patient had various bruises on her person during her residence in the Hospital—that whilst there, she complained of ill-treatment and coarse conduct on the part of the nurses;

“ and that she slept naked on loose straw in the same manner as is
 “ set forth in the cases of A. M. and H. H. The truth of the
 “ mother’s statement, as to this patient’s complaints of ill-usage, is
 “ strengthened by the evidence of E. W., to whom M. E. W. made
 “ the same complaints whilst in the Hospital; and it is remarkable
 “ that both these last named witnesses concur in stating that M. E.
 “ W., whilst in the Hospital, expressed her intention of complaining
 “ to the Governors of the ill-treatment she had been subjected to,
 “ and that she was dissuaded from, or counteracted in her intention
 “ by the matron.”

“ On examining this patient herself, it must be observed, that the
 “ answers given by her to our questions did not bear out the state-
 “ ments of her mother and of Elinor W. M. E. W.’s recollection and
 “ general intellect were, however, in so feeble and imperfect a state
 “ at the time of her appearing before us, that we did not think it
 “ proper to question her to the extent we should have done had she
 “ appeared more competent to give evidence on the subjects of our
 “ inquiry.”

THE EVIDENCE.

In forming a conclusion on this case, the important fact should be remembered, although it is unnoticed by the Commissioners, that this patient was *cured* in the Hospital; and it is admitted by the mother was very kindly treated by Sir A. Morison, the Physician. The evidence of the mother, the Commissioners admit, was not “borne out” by the daughter, and it is of so contradictory a character that it is impossible it could be “borne out.”

In the first place, the mother positively states that some bruises which were on her daughter’s person were “done by the nurses,” although it is not pretended that there is any evidence whatever of such conduct on their part. She afterwards asserts that her belief rested on the fact that she had no bruises when admitted, and that the nurses “might pull her about; and another
 “ thing, she was going to take a bath on one occasion while she was

“there, and whether she did not do it properly herself or not I cannot say, but she said that no less than three nurses forced her in again, and ill treated her very much, and she begged never to be put into a bath again.” (1954)

In order to estimate the conduct of these nurses, it is necessary to consider the following description of this patient, as detailed in the Medical Case Book of the Hospital.

“*Very wild, excited, noisy, and violent*—her conversation is generally incoherent, and she is very mischievous, not only destroying her own clothes and those of other patients, but breaking and tearing anything that comes in her way. She is subject to paroxysms of an hysterical nature, and is now and then depressed for a few minutes, and cries without any obvious reason. This, however, never lasts long, and almost always occurs when anybody goes into the room, especially if they speak or take any notice of her. At other times she is generally rather elated than otherwise, but is occasionally tolerably quiet, and can then, when in the mood, give a rational answer to a question. She is, however, very uncertain, and her condition is continually varying. *She pays no regard to personal cleanliness, and is extremely filthy.*”

It is remarkable, that while Mrs. W., the mother, speaks with great positiveness and without doubt as to facts, respecting which it is impossible she could have the least personal knowledge, because, if true, they could only have occurred in her absence, that her information is strangely defective on subjects within her knowledge, and in which she must have been greatly interested. Thus she speaks without doubt as to alleged ill-treatment inflicted on her daughter in her absence, but was unable to tell the Commissioners to what part of the country that daughter had gone to reside for change of air; and although this question was repeated four times, the only approximation to the locality was, that “it was in Somersetshire, and it might be near *Haddington!*” Neither does she know when her daughter was likely to return. This witness, in answer to the Commissioners, also added, that she had a son, a medical man, resident in London, who had visited his sister while in the Hospital, and who could, in the idiomatic language of the ques-

tion, "tell us all about it." The Governors have to regret that this competent and accessible witness, of whose existence the Commissioners were previously aware, was not examined, as they presume that the Commissioners would have been willing to receive any testimony which could serve to elucidate the truth. The Governors therefore submit that this case by no means warrants the conclusions of the Commissioners.

The wound on the finger, alleged to have been made by the keys, there is reason to believe was a whitlow. (2792.)

Mrs. Elinor W., the Commissioners' "trustworthy witness," "does not recollect ever having seen *any* nurse strike *any* patient with the keys," and the patient herself makes no such charge; while the bruises which the mother saw (and which the Commissioners convert into a statement by the mother, that she was "*all black and blue*") might, and probably were, occasioned by the patient falling, from the feeble state of her hip joint, which the mother states would "come out when she exerted herself." At the same time, it is also possible, and not improbable, that these bruises, if any, were produced in the struggles made by the patient when resisting the necessary operation of bathing, which, in such case, is not inconsistent with humane and proper treatment.

Another proof of the unsatisfactory evidence of this witness, is with reference to the abusive language she asserted to have been used to her daughter; but, notwithstanding the Commissioners unfairly, we submit, suggested to her that it was the nurses who abused her daughter, she admits, "she does not know whether it was the nurses *or the poor creatures.*" (1956.)

The inference drawn by the mother, that the matron "counteracted" the intention of her daughter to complain of the conduct which she had experienced, is erroneous. She states that the matron stood beside her daughter while she was being examined, upon which the highly-suggestive question is put to her "To prevent it?" which she naturally adopts, and answers "Yes." The daughter has no recollection of any such interference, nor is it likely she should, as it is difficult to see how the matron could prevent the complaint of a person who was a free agent, and only introduced, on her

discharge, to the Committee prior to leaving the Hospital, and the whole statement rests upon the imagination of the mother. The simple explanation of this matter is, that the Rules require the Matron personally to introduce into the Committee Room every female patient on her discharge cured. The propriety of such a rule is obvious, when it is recollected how embarrassing and agitating to the nervous system of a female recently recovered from lunacy such a situation would be, if sent alone before a Committee of gentlemen wholly strangers.

The Governors cannot conclude their remarks on this case without drawing attention to the different reception given by the Commissioners to evidence, as it may tend to exculpate or incriminate the Hospital; neither does it appear to have occurred to the Commissioners, that if so little credit is to be given to the evidence of the witness, Miss M. E. W., after her discharge, *cured*, any statement she may have made when in the Hospital suffering from her malady should of necessity be received with very great caution. The mother assigns as the reason why neither she nor any of the family made any representation or complaint to the Governors upon the subject of her daughter's treatment was, that "they did not know what she stated was right," (1966—7), affording a clear proof that, however confidently the mother may have repeated before the Commissioners, as correct, the statements made to her by her daughter whilst a patient in the Hospital, there was a time in which she did not consider them entitled to such implicit credit; and it is deserving of particular remark, that the daughter herself, before the Commissioners, denies their accuracy.

The evidence of Miss M. E. W. is disparaged and practically rejected (not because it does not bear out the unfavourable evidence of the mother,) but on account of her alleged feebleness of recollection and intellect; nevertheless, she was deemed qualified to be sworn before being examined, whereas, no doubt whatever is expressed with reference to the evidence of Miss A. M., although the Commissioners have added, in a note at the end of her examination—"As this witness is *still in a nervous and excited* " *state* she was *not sworn* in the first instance. Ultimately, however,

‘ she expressed her willingness to swear to the truth of what she had “ stated, and was sworn accordingly. *She, however, declined having “ her evidence read over to her.”* The Governors can conceive no reason why the same prominence was not given in the Report to this most important limitation of the competence of this witness against the Hospital which is attempted to be cast upon the not unfavourable evidence of Miss M. E. W. The Commissioners, in their Report, suppress all reference to this peculiar feature of their proceedings.

H.'s CASE.

This patient was admitted into the Hospital on the 26th Sept., 1851, and removed by his friends on the 5th Nov. following. This case is entered in the Case Book as follows :—

“ Restless, unsettled, and exceedingly obstinate, with only just “ enough consciousness to offer all the resistance in his power to “ whatever was done for him. When not interfered with, he would “ remain constantly in the same place, without speaking a word or “ taking any notice of anything, excepting when the gallery-door “ was opened, when he would endeavour to press his way out, still “ without saying a word ; if asked a question he would stare “ about as if he did not understand he was spoken to ; and has “ never been heard to speak a rational word since his admission. “ He not only refuses his food, but resists when the attendants “ give it him. When put to bed he was very noisy and knocked “ loudly at the door, and as he continued to be noisy at night he “ was removed to the basement the fourth day after his admission.

“ 27th October.—He continues extremely obstinate, resisting, as “ far as he is able, everything that is done for him. For the last “ two days he has refused his food more determinedly than ever. “ This morning, as the attendant was carrying him out of his room, “ another patient, who was in the gallery, suddenly banged the door, “ out of which this patient was at the moment being carried, and “ caught his head between the edge of the door and the door-post

“ so as to squeeze him by the temples, and produce a bruise on each
“ side, with a black eye on the left side.

“ 28th.—The attendant was unable to induce him to take any
“ food, and as he had taken very little indeed since the 25th the
“ stomach-pump was employed.

“ 29th.—Was fed twice with the stomach-pump; no change
“ whatever in his mental condition. Discharge from the left ear
“ observed.

“ 30th.—Fed twice ; remains the same [with stomach-pump.]

“ 31st.—Fed twice [ditto.]

“ Nov. 1.—Stomach-pump was used twice for the last time, as it
“ seemed that, notwithstanding the nourishment thus administered,
“ he was rapidly wasting, and the resistance he offered on each
“ occasion it was feared would do him more harm than any good
“ from feeding.

“ 4th.—He has been fed once a day since the 1st inst., until this
“ morning, when he took the whole of the breakfast that was
“ offered him, consisting of two eggs, some bread and butter, and
“ about a pint of tea; at dinner time he took all the dinner that
“ was given, but did not help himself to any.

“ 5th.—Took the same breakfast as yesterday, but about half an
“ hour afterwards, having up to this time walked about very firmly,
“ he appeared to be faint, and fell in the gallery against the wall,
“ while sitting on the coal box, in sight of an attendant; some wine
“ was given him, and he soon rallied.”

The Commissioners state that the “ tenor of the evidence given
“ as to the male patient H. (this patient), is to the effect,—that he
“ was a patient in the Hospital for rather more than five weeks ;
“ that he was a strong muscular man, and free from bruises on his
“ admission, that on his discharge he was exceedingly reduced in
“ flesh, and had numerous bruises on his body, and that he com-
“ plained (amongst other things) of ill usage from the attendants,
“ and particularly of his throat having been severely squeezed, a
“ circumstance that was corroborated by the appearance of his
“ throat on his discharge, and is also corroborated by the evidence
“ of John Welsh, who was a keeper at the time of H.’s residence

“in the institution, but who has since been discharged. This last named patient (H.) died within a few days after leaving the hospital.”

As the chief witness in this case is John Welsh, who is, indeed, the only person who speaks of the manner in which the patient's throat is alleged to have been injured, it is necessary to advert to him at some length. He came to the Hospital on the 9th of August, 1851, on trial as an attendant; at the end of two months, the usual period of probation, Dr. Wood not feeling himself able to recommend him for appointment, allowed him another month's trial, at the end of which period, (the 7th November, 1851,) he was reported as unsuitable, and another directed to be taken in his place. He then requested to see the Bethlem Sub-Committee, and on being admitted, demanded to be appointed as of right, and on being told that this could not be done, he expressed his determination of going somewhere else, and seeing if he could not get justice there; having given this clear proof of his unfitness, he was told to leave the room.

As he saw the body of the patient (H.) after his death, which occurred on the 8th of November, he must have been in communication with the friends of the patient shortly after he left the Hospital (3116). He says (3090) “the keeper is there now, of the name of Thomas, who resorted to the stocking, and put it round the man's (H.'s) neck, and tied it like this, (describing the same) in a noose, and held him till the man was nearly strangled.” In answer to the question—

3102.—“How often did Thomas use the stocking to H.?” He says—“About twice to H., and once to P.” (another patient.) He states that these are the only times he ever saw this done, although he admits (3090) that he “had repeatedly been called for to go down into the back basement, where the dirty patients are, to assist this man to dress.” The corroborations of this charge, if they can be considered such, are the difficulty of swallowing, (3193) the appearances of the neck, and the patient's own statements after being removed. With regard to the first, it is scarcely possible to conceive that it could be otherwise with a patient, who

had for some time been fed with a stomach-pump, the use of which he had always violently resisted;* and it is quite possible that the appearances, which were not confined to the neck, but extended over the face, neck, and head, may be attributed to the same circumstance, and to the injury occasioned by the bed-room door. The patient's brother says (3193), that he (the patient) "whispered that he had had his throat squeezed;" but in answer to the question (3200), "Did he describe how it was squeezed?" replied, "No, he did not; they put something over his head and "squeezed his throat." The latter part of this reply appears to be contradictory to the former! It was probably not intended to form part of the reply to the question, but to be the communication of further information obtained elsewhere; for it must be remembered this evidence is given on the 18th November, some time after Welsh must have visited the friends of the patient.

Much of the evidence of another witness, also a friend of the patient, is important, and is as follows:—

" 3234.—Did you see his throat at the time?—I saw it.

" 3235.—What appearance did it present?—There was nothing " external.

" 3236.—Was there any discolouration?—He was discoloured " altogether; the face, the neck, and head. He complained a great " deal of his throat.

" 3237.—Did the throat look somewhat different?—It was dis- " coloured.

" 3238.—Did he say how it occurred?—He said they twisted his " throat; but of course it was incoherent—a part of it. He became " on Friday, previous to his death, tolerably sensible for a man in " his weak state.

" 3239.—When tolerably sane, what did he state as the reason " for his ill-treatment?—The whole time was spent in upbraiding " his family, and those connected with him for leaving him there

" * * * *

* It can hardly be unknown, that with patients who obstinately refuse food, there is often no other mode of administering nourishment, and thereby preventing death from positive exhaustion, than by the use of the stomach-pump.

“ 3243.—Did he mention the name of any keeper ?

“ —No, he did not. I knew nothing of the names of any keeper
 “ till the conversation I had with the person whom you have already
 “ examined, (no doubt Welsh, who was examined on the same day);
 “ the name of the keeper was Thomas, who, he said, ill-used him.

“ 3248.—Did you see his body after death ?—No ; I did not
 “ undress it. I saw him in his coffin. I saw that his knees were
 “ bruised. Before, he would not have a shirt on; afterwards, while
 “ he was lying in bed, after he came home, when he was sensible,
 “ he had the bed clothes over him; he did not object to that at all.
 “ I saw that his knees were bruised; but that we could easily under-
 “ stand a man in a weak state having those bruises.”

Another witness, William Beach, discharged from the Hospital for ill-using a patient, and appearing to be by no means favorable to the Institution, says, in answer to the question,

“ 3303.—*It has been stated to the Commissioners that it is the*
 “ *practice in the Asylum to put a stocking round the patients'*
 “ *throats when they are being dressed, to secure them.* Did you ever
 “ see a stocking, or any thing else, put tight round a patient's
 “ throat ?—I never did.”

The patient P., stated by Welsh to have been treated in this manner (3102), left the Hospital cured on the 10th June, 1852. He stated before the Bethlem Sub-Committee, on being discharged, that “he had been very kindly treated in the Hospital,” and he made no complaint of any kind. Another attendant, on leaving recently, made a series of charges against the attendants in the basement for male patients; but amongst the whole of them there was no allusion whatever to a proceeding of this nature.

Under these circumstances the Governors are satisfied such a mode of treatment has never existed in the Hospital; and when they consider the conduct and threat of the witness who makes the charge, and on whose evidence it chiefly rests, they feel assured it will not be regarded as established even to the limited extent stated.

ALLEGED VIOLENCE IN FEEDING PATIENTS.

The Commissioners report that there is "much reason to fear" the existence of a "violent and offensive mode in which food "appears to have been forced upon some of those [patients] who "obstinately refused to take it voluntarily." In order that there may be no mis-apprehension as to the meaning of the Commissioners, their own two descriptions of this alleged practice are here set out.

1. "*It has been stated* that there is a practice with some of these "nurses, that in the event of a patient refusing food, not applying "the stomach pump, but laying them down on their backs and kneeling on one arm with one knee, and on the other arm with the other "knee, and lying down themselves, then endeavouring to open the "mouth and force food down their throats while in that position." (423.)

2. "Did you ever hear such a statement as this—that nurses, "sometimes, in order to force a patient to take food, would lay "her upon her back upon the ground, *sit astride upon her chest*, "and kneeling upon her arms force the food down her throat?" (675.)*

The existence of these violent practices depends, like the alleged practice of "mopping," greatly on the evidence of Mrs. Elinor W. with the exception of that part which describes the "sitting astride "upon the patient's chest," which is mere embellishment, no such expression being used by any witness. While the Governors express their astonishment at the facility of belief exhibited by the Commissioners in this and other incriminatory statements, they almost doubt the necessity of offering any serious answer to a charge, which, upon the face of it, is palpably improbable. The Commissioners may, however, rest assured, that they will find, upon enquiry of any competent and practical person, that to feed

* These questions were put in the course of examination, held on the 7th July; and as Mrs. Elinor W., who ostensibly furnishes the information, was not examined until the 10th July, it would appear that this witness was either privately examined on some occasion previously to the former date, or that the Commissioners have taken the evidence of some other witness, which does not appear.

a patient in the manner described is not only improbable, but is impossible. On reference to the evidence of the "trustworthy" witness, Mrs. Elinor W., it appears that she alleges she saw this violent process inflicted upon two patients, Miss H. W., and Mrs. S., adding, that "neither of them resisted;" that one "was very quiet;" and gives the following reason for at least two nurses exhibiting all this violence to a quiet and unresisting female. "I think they do it to *feed the patients quickly, and not to take any pains over them!*" (1553.) In this, as in the case of Miss A. M., the Governors acquit this witness of intentional misrepresentation; indeed, the inherent improbability of the tale is its own refutation, but they regret they cannot extend the same indulgence to a body of gentlemen holding an important public position, when they lend the weight of their authority to countenance a statement so manifestly incredible.

The Governors submit that they have sufficiently shown from the evidence that the charges of ill-treatment in all these cases have not been substantiated, and they sincerely believe that, constituted and governed as Bethlem Hospital is, it is impossible for any system of unkindness to be practised there without early detection.

About one hundred and seventy patients who annually recover remain in the Hospital a month in a convalescent state prior to their discharge; they have, therefore, better opportunities of ascertaining the treatment in the Hospital than any Governor can have. All these are introduced to the Bethlem Sub-Committee on leaving the Hospital, and they are asked if they have been kindly treated, and the almost invariable answer is, that they have, and that they have no complaint of any kind to make,—followed by expressions of the deepest thankfulness for the favours they have received. Many patients, indeed, not content with the verbal tender of thanks, send to the Governors further expressions of their gratitude in writing after their return home; and there is amongst the records of the Hospital a large collection of these, of the most pleasing kind, which is at all times open to inspection. Whenever the reply of the patient on his discharge is such as to leave any impression that his treatment has not been satisfactory (which sometimes, although very

rarely, happens), or that there is any cause of complaint existing in the Hospital, an investigation is immediately instituted, and, if requisite, a remedy applied.*

The Hospital is also under the control of about three hundred Governors, who have a right at all times to visit it, and when doing so they frequently introduce friends, who inspect it most minutely. It has, in a great measure, indeed, been accessible to general public inspection, as visiting-orders have been given to all respectable persons requiring them, and arrangements have been made so that such orders could at all times be obtained without difficulty. It will not, therefore, be matter of surprise that an Institution so prominent and so accessible as Bethlem is, should, under such regulations, be frequently visited, and this has been, indeed, the case to so great an extent as to keep it generally under the inspection of visitors during a considerable portion of the four days in every week on which visitors are admitted.

Such visiting is inconsistent with a system of ill-treatment: and the Authorities of the Hospital, conscious of this, have always invited visitors, and have requested them not only to examine with care every part of the Establishment, but to enter in a book kept for that purpose any remarks on the Hospital they may think proper. In this manner many of the patients are visited by their friends, in addition to the other very numerous visits to patients on the days set apart for that purpose.

The Governors court inspection, and will cheerfully lend their zealous assistance in the furtherance of any open investigation that may be considered necessary; but, as a body of gentlemen, assiduously and gratuitously devoting a large portion of their time to the superintendence of the charity, and being above the suspicion of having any interested motives, or that they can possibly have any other desire than for the perfect management of the Institution,

* It is worthy of remark that in none of the alleged cases of ill-treatment referred to by the Commissioners was any complaint made to the Governors, except that of H. H., which was immediately investigated at great length; and since the inquiry by the Commissioners has closed, the Governors have received communications from the friends of patients, expressive of their entire satisfaction with their treatment.

they feel it right to express their conviction that if a mode of investigation similar to that adopted by the Commissioners in this case were to become general, it would discourage the supporters of numerous public Charities, and would deeply injure many of those great Institutions of Benevolence which are universally regarded as the brightest ornaments of the land.

VISITS TO PATIENTS BY THEIR FRIENDS.

The following is the rule on this subject:—

“On the first and third Mondays in every Month, with the exception of Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, Easter Monday, and Whit Monday; the relatives and friends of patients shall be allowed to see them between the Hours of Ten and Twelve o’clock, but no visitor shall be permitted to see any Patient, if the Medical Officer be of opinion that the visit will be injurious to such Patient or otherwise inexpedient.”

While it is thus seen that the rules of the Hospital permit relatives and friends to visit patients once a fortnight, it nevertheless appears that, in some instances, permission has been refused, without medical authority, until one month had elapsed after admission; but as no complaint in this respect had been made to any of the Authorities of the Hospital, they cannot be fairly considered accountable for this unauthorised deviation from their rules. It is impossible to lay down any inflexible rules for visiting patients, as their mental condition may be such, when the visiting day arrives, as to render it absolutely necessary to prevent an interview, with the view of avoiding the injurious excitement that would in all probability ensue. It is almost impossible to impress upon relatives and friends the importance of abstaining from topics of an exciting nature; and notwithstanding every precaution, family details and domestic anxieties are the natural and almost unavoidable subjects of conversation.

Measures are under consideration as to the practicability of

enabling visitors to see their relations and friends, without being seen, when their condition may be such as to render an interview prejudicial to them.

THE BEDDING IN THE BASEMENT.

The terms "basement," and "back basement," being used throughout the evidence, as designating the story of the building in which the wards of the worst classes of patients are situate, it is desirable, in order to prevent misconception, to observe, with respect to the basement generally, that as regards the general level of the adjoining airing grounds and public roads, it is a ground story, being from one to four steps above that level. With respect to the back basement, it is merely so called to distinguish it locally from the front basement; the rooms and galleries of both look either into the airing grounds before named, or into the other equally open spaces on the same level with them. The entire of the front wards and galleries, and all the back, except a portion of the lowest one in each department, have boarded floors. The portions excepted have slate floors, being appropriated to those classes of patients whose infirmities are considered to render such arrangement advisable; but few patients are placed there, and those only during sleeping hours—in the day-time they are in the front galleries. The entire of the back basement is kept warmed and aired by means of hot water pipes passing along the slate flooring.

The Commissioners dwell considerably upon the fact, that the bedding in this ward appropriated to wet and dirty patients consists of straw. Upon this subject the Governors would remark, that the general Report of the Commissioners to the Lord Chancellor, in 1844, contains these passages (p. 17): "Many lunatics are not only sickly, but are so filthy in their habits that they nearly frustrate all attempts to keep them clean, and *can only be allowed to sleep upon straw or other bedding which may be thrown away or washed every day;*" and at p. 124, "a separate apartment is

“ obviously required for that class of patients, a very numerous one
 “ in many Lunatic Asylums, whose state or conduct is such as to
 “ render them disgusting and offensive to others. Fatuous persons,
 “ or those who have sunk into the last stage of dementia, and who
 “ are *insensible to the calls of nature*, are of this description.” The
 Governors likewise learn from one of their members, Dr. Webster,
 who has visited most of the foreign asylums, that in France, for in-
 stance, (where the treatment of lunacy is of the highest order) the
 various attempts to find a substitute for straw as bedding for those
 patients who are “insensible to the calls of nature,” have often proved
 unsuccessful, and they have consequently reverted to straw as being
 the most cleanly, easily renewed, and therefore the most comfortable
 material for bedding, when properly arranged and provided with
 adequate covering. The Governors are thus fortified in their
 opinion, that for such patients, (and it must be recollected that
 all the female inmates reported on were in this unhappy condition)
 fresh straw, with a sufficiency of warm clothing, constitutes
 a suitable bedding, notwithstanding the misrepresentation, by the
 ill-informed, to which the use of such a material is liable.

The beds in the portion of the building having slate floors, were
 always prepared in the following manner :*—A large supply of clean
 straw was first put into a crib, or trough, upon a frame some dis-
 tance from the ground.† This straw was covered with a large thick
 blanket, well tucked in all round, on which the patient slept, and
 for covering there was as many blankets as were required to secure
 sufficient warmth. In order that the rooms in which these beds
 were, might be freed from all offensive smells, the doors were
 kept wide open during the day, every visitor to the Hospital had
 therefore the opportunity of seeing them; and indeed they have been
 pointed out as efficient beds and readily kept clean, to thousands
 of visitors, including numerous Magistrates and medical Super-
 intendents of other Asylums, as well as medical men generally,

* The straw of the beds have recently been inclosed in cases, with questionable advantage.

† The only exceptions are a few padded rooms, padded throughout for the safety and security of the patient.

and persons of distinction taking a deep interest in the proper treatment of the Insane: notwithstanding which, not one word of disapproval or objection to them has ever been uttered. What is the best bed for a dirty patient is still a subject of dispute—various kinds are used in various Institutions, and in at least one large Asylum, under the charge of two Medical Superintendents, each has his peculiar bed, the superiority of which over all others he maintains without doubt or hesitation. It is believed that the Commissioners in Lunacy themselves are not agreed on this important point, and indeed if they were, it would be their obvious duty to enforce its general adoption with all the authority they possess.

The Governors entirely concur with the Commissioners in reprobating the practice, of some patients, in consequence of their dirty habits, being put unnecessarily to bed between blankets without night clothes; as well as in the opinion, that the existence of such a practice, without the knowledge of the Matron, or of the Physicians, as stated in their evidence, is very reprehensible, and proves the necessity of those changes which the Governors have recently made. It has been a practice in the Hospital for "dirty and suicidal" patients to sleep without night clothing; and, assuming that the practice, however offensive it may appear, has been limited to such cases, it is felt that no non-medical person, knowing how easily life may be destroyed by a person determined on effecting that object, would lightly incur the heavy responsibility of directing a different arrangement without medical authority. It is not believed that any of the Commissioners, not medical men, would venture on such a course; neither would any of them, who are medical, until they had ascertained the manner in which the patient's suicidal tendency was manifested.

If this practice have at all prevailed with non-suicidal patients, or unnecessarily with those who were suicidal, it is a proof of culpable negligence on the part of those concerned; and that the latter, at least, was the case is clear, since the Matron, as soon as she was aware of the practice, ordered its discontinuance. Such a proceeding on her part, without the authority of the Physicians, is marked rather by boldness than prudence; but since it obtained their approval

afterwards, and was attended with no unfavourable results, it is obvious that the practice with those patients with whom it then prevailed was unnecessary, and consequently to be regretted.

VISITING AT NIGHT.

This is so unusual an exercise of supervision, and so far beyond the ordinary rules of visitation, that it required the direct sanction of the Legislature to authorize the Commissioners themselves and the Magistrates appointed at Quarter Sessions, to visit and inspect any lunatic asylum, within their jurisdiction, at night ; and their very sparing use of this delicate part of their authority is shown by the General Report of the Commissioners to the Lord Chancellor, Page 20. in June, 1847, when, although they inspected above four hundred asylums, and saw seventeen thousand, seven hundred and forty-nine patients, they state that they have only exercised their power of visiting at night *in one instance*. The Governors are of opinion, liable as all systems of supervision to defects must be, that the general comfort of the patients may be effectually secured by the vigilance and care of the resident officers, and a well regulated system of night-watching ; while visiting by Governors in the night is not only open to great abuse, but might expose those who should attempt to carry it into execution to accusations by patients on their discharge, or by their friends and relations, of unwarrantable and indecorous intrusion into the sleeping-rooms of lunatic patients (especially females), if not to more serious imputations. The Report of the Commissioners admits that regulations have been made by the Governors for securing this supervision, and for the record of such visits ; and if the observance of this rule appears "rare," and not so frequent as it ought to have been, the Governors believe they have taken such measures as will prevent such omissions in future. It is however certain that, unless the Governors assume the actual duties of the officers and servants, and live themselves in the wards of the Hospital, that it is not possible to ensure, in every instance,

that strict observance of their rules, however explicit and judicious they may be, which can only flow from a zealous and conscientious discharge, by the officers, of their duties.

The very serious objections to the plan proposed by the Commissioners, of Governors visiting the wards without the presence of an attendant, are too manifest to require further notice ; and, without discussing the advantages, or otherwise, of such a system pursued by the Commissioners themselves, when visiting the comparatively few patients in a private asylum, the inapplicability of it to wards filled with some hundreds of patients is at once apparent. Each Governor has the right of visiting every part of the Hospital at all reasonable hours, attended by as many friends as he may think proper to introduce, and no application for orders of admission on the part of any stranger is ever unsuccessful.* The Secretary of State has also an unlimited power of giving visiting orders, which he frequently exercises. Visitors from every country are in the constant habit of inspecting the Hospital in considerable numbers ; and the Visitors' Book contains a series of unvarying testimony, especially by the late Earl of Shaftesbury, to the scrupulous cleanliness and good order of the building, the tranquillity and comfort of the patients, the kindness exhibited towards them, and the judicious arrangements made for their employment and amusement, to an extent seldom equalled, and still more rarely surpassed, in any Institution of a similar description.

INFIRMARIES.

The want of Infirmarys complained of by the Commissioners is not so extensive as they would represent. Schools, workhouses, and asylums of various descriptions, have generally some portion of the building specially appropriated for sick or infirm inmates, which are called infirmarys ; but the whole of Bethlem Hospital is an infirmary. The allegation that there is no place called an infirmary is correct ; but

* Nearly nine thousand visits are annually made to patients by their friends and relatives.

the important point is, whether or not there is separate and suitable accommodation for the sick, and the evidence shows that there are large airy separate rooms which are made available in case of unusual sickness or epidemic. The Commissioners do not perceive the obvious distinction, that in most lunatic asylums the patients generally sleep in considerable numbers in dormitories, and in such cases the necessity for a distinct infirmary is obvious, but this applies in only a minor degree to Bethlem Hospital, where almost every patient is provided with a separate sleeping apartment, and if ill, is therefore treated in his own room. Many insane persons, however infirm, cannot be admitted into an infirmary—such as the noisy and violent. That there are not any particular portions of the building especially appropriated to infirmaries is, however, to be attributed rather to circumstances than to any deliberate wish or intention of the Governors. When the building was enlarged, in 1838, a place was set apart in each wing as an Infirmary, namely, one for each sex ; but as these rooms were somewhat inconvenient for such purposes, and have been differently appropriated, (there being indeed more suitable rooms in other parts of the Hospital for such cases) the Governors resolved to construct additional accommodation for the sick, and the necessary measures for that purpose were commenced long before the Report of the Commissioners was received, and the buildings are now nearly completed.

The Commissioners say in their Report—“Among the extensive
“additions to the building, which were commenced so long ago as
“the year 1838, a distinct infirmary or sick ward for each sex,
“with nurses’ rooms attached, formed part of the plan publicly
“announced, although, for what reason does not appear, this has
“not, to the present time, been carried out.”

This is inaccurate. Every part of the plans for the enlargement of the Hospital, proposed in 1838 by Mr. Sydney Smirke, the Hospital Architect, including sick wards for each sex, were carried out. This, as well as the numerous other errors which pervade the Report, is, no doubt, attributable to the mode in which they have obtained their information and conducted the inquiry.

SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Commissioners report their opinion that the Bethlem Sub-Committee is of "too fluctuating and uncertain a character." The routine duties of admitting and discharging patients, which is done always under the advice of the medical officers, of going round the house, inspecting provisions, and auditing petty disbursements, are not of a character likely to induce a large weekly assemblage of Governors, particularly as an early hour of meeting is fixed, to suit the convenience of those relations and friends who bring, or who attend to remove patients. Reference to the Minute Book, however, shows that the attendance is on the average satisfactory, and fully sufficient for the duties; and it is to be recollected, as stated by the Commissioners, that every act of this Sub-Committee is reported regularly to the General Monthly Committee of forty-two Governors, which is much more fully attended, and by whom the proceedings of the Sub-Committee are required to be confirmed. It may not be improper here to remark, that during the last four years the average annual number of meetings of Governors for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Hospitals, was *one hundred and seventy-eight*, the Courts and General Committees being presided over, with scarcely an exception, by the President, and all Sub-Committees, with equal regularity, by the Treasurer. The great extent of business transacted at these numerous meetings can only be ascertained by a careful examination of the voluminous Records of the Hospitals, which are at all times open to the inspection of Governors. And here the Governors cannot but express their opinion, that such a complaint comes with an indifferent grace from a salaried Commission, when it is seen from their own Records that their attendances upon this important investigation were not only of a "fluctuating and uncertain character," but that no Commissioner heard much more than half of the evidence, and that the nine meetings held upon this inquiry were presided over by three different chairmen.

ATTENDANTS.

The charge of cruelty, as already stated, is one to which hospitals and asylums for the insane are peculiarly exposed,—easily made, and hard to disprove. Relatives, especially if inexperienced in this disorder, and from their habits and education not very competent to estimate the value of treatment which does not exhibit the usual means and appliances of sick rooms and ordinary indisposition, may occasionally conceive, that a lunatic once within the walls of an asylum, requires no further control, and that every degree of freedom ought to be permitted, and mistake those controlling or precautionary measures which sometimes constitute the main elements of cure, for cruelty and coercion. Any act of harshness in an attendant is a very great offence, and which, if proved, is invariably visited at Bethlem with dismissal. At the same time, due regard must be made for the trying and dangerous nature of their duties, and for the lives of the patients themselves, as well as of the attendants, which requires that provision must be made against those violent out-breaks to which some lunatics are peculiarly liable. This is truly described by the Commissioners in their General Report (1844). “Wherever a considerable number of lunatics are assembled, there are found some who are subject to paroxysms of violent excitement, during which they are apt to assault other patients, or any persons within their reach. Others, who are more dangerous, suddenly, or without any previous sign of mischievous intention, inflict serious injuries on slight provocation or without any apparent motive; or they are prone to set fire to houses, and display various destructive and malicious propensities.” “Those persons would be sources of perpetual danger and alarm, and would, sometimes occasion serious calamities if they were left at large in the midst of other patients, unless carefully watched. It is desirable for the complete security of the rest to keep such dangerous patients, as far as practicable, in one or more separate divisions, where they may be surrounded by a number of vigilant and experienced attendants.” The Commissioners then proceed to

detail several violent and sanguinary attacks, prefacing the account with the following paragraph, to which they attach the significant marginal note of "Safety of attendants endangered by *absence of restraint.*" "Attention to the safety and comfort of attendants is " a very important part of the duties of the proprietors of asylums " for the insane. It is a great object to secure the services of respect- " able and superior persons as attendants and nurses ; but if such " persons are to be induced to take charge of the insane, it is neces- " sary to assure them that they are not to lead a life of ceaseless " anxiety, and to be in continual apprehension of violence." Violence, however, is not the only trying circumstance to which the attendants and nurses are exposed in the discharge of their duties, which are often aggravated when, to use the language of the Commissioners, "The state and condition of the patients is such " as to render them disgusting and offensive to others." (P. 150.)

The Governors concur in the accuracy of these statements, and feel that where many such patients are necessarily collected together a blow may be given by a patient, and a bruise occasioned, sometimes by his own act, even with the greatest vigilance on the part of attendants ; and, indeed, it is a subject of surprise and congratulation, not that there are no occurrences of this kind in large Asylums for the Insane, but that they are so exceedingly rare.

PHYSICIANS AND VISITING PHYSICIANS.

Much of what appears in the report as peculiarly objectionable to the Commissioners, arises from a misapprehension of their own. Notwithstanding they were furnished at the outset with a copy of the Rules defining the duties of each Officer, they persist in designating the Physicians "Visiting Physicians," and assigning to them those functions only which such an office entails, and ascribe to the resident Apothecary powers and responsibilities with which the evidence proves he was never invested.

The distinction between the duties of a "Physician" and "Visiting Physician," though nominal to an unprofessional person, are most important, and ought to have been perfectly familiar to the profes-

sional members of the Commission. "A Physician" has the entire charge of a patient, prescribes for him, and is solely responsible for his treatment from the time of admission to discharge; devolving upon others, whether apothecary or nurse, those minor details only which serve to carry his orders into execution. "A Visiting Physician," on the contrary, is not, and cannot be expected to be wholly responsible for the treatment of a patient; his duty is to supervise the general condition of the establishment, and when necessary, to direct the resident medical Officer, who under such a system is primarily charged with and responsible for the medical treatment.

There never was any such Officer as Visiting Physician at Bethlem Hospital.

This distinction, broad and clear, is entirely ignored by the Commissioners, who proceed to draw erroneous conclusions from erroneous premises.

TREASURER.

With a pertinacity of reiteration, which would be objectionable even if accurate, they repeat no fewer than seven times a charge against the Treasurer, that he has of his own authority transferred the classification and employment of the female patients from the resident medical Officer to the Matron.

The Rules show that this view is not correct, and the evidence disproves the report.

The Rules show that the classification and employment of patients are amongst the most important duties of the Physicians, who in their evidence state distinctly and positively that their authority on these subjects is unquestionable and paramount. The Apothecary, undoubtedly in the intervals of the Physician's daily visits ("in their absence," as the Rule states,) is to regulate the classification and employment, but this is always subject and subordinate to the confirmation of the Physicians. The propriety of a Matron regulating the employment and amusements of the female patients can hardly be doubted by any impartial person, who would at once admit that a medical Officer could hardly be less usefully or properly employed than in the superintending the laundry, or the cutting out

or preparation of linen in the work-room. The Treasurer (who, as a Visiting Justice of the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum, has had great experience in such matters) by confirming the Matron in her peculiar duty (as defined in Rule 7),* secured an increase of employment, greater comfort and quiet in the wards, and, consequently, increased advantages to the patients. The result of this course, so much condemned, is entirely overlooked in the assertion of the supremacy of medical authority.

The Governors cannot but remark here upon the inconsistent nature of the complaints of the Commissioners, and the apparent impossibility of complying with the requisitions. One of the chief defects alleged to exist in the management of the Hospital is, that the superintendence of the Governors is of "too formal a nature," and their investigation into the practical working of the Institution insufficient, but no sooner do the superintendence and investigation of the Treasurer (not only as the organ of the Bethlem Sub-committee,) but, as they state, "the principal authority at the Hospital," assume a less formal and insufficient character, and become more practical and searching, than the Commissioners immediately denounce his proceedings as an interference with the authority of the Resident Medical Officer.

The Governors entertain no doubt whatever of the propriety of the course the Treasurer pursued, and which is another proof of the zeal with which he discharges his important duties.

PRESENT STATE OF BETHLEM HOSPITAL.

The Governors preface their observations on this subject with an extract from what the Commissioners correctly designate the "elaborate report" of Mr. Francis Offley Martin, one of the Commissioners for Inquiring into Charities. 32d Rep. Part 6. (30th June, 1837).

* The Matron is required "to distribute the patients in their sleeping apartments, so that each female attendant may have a proper number of those who are fit to work to assist her, and to employ such of the patients at their needle, or otherwise, as are capable."

“To a casual visitor, unaccustomed to the sight of lunatics, and
 “perhaps impressed with an idea that great personal coercion is
 “indispensable in an asylum, few sights can be more gratifying than
 “the present condition of the interior of Bethlem. The scrupulous
 “cleanliness which prevails throughout the house, the decent attire
 “of the patients, and the unexpectedly small number of patients under
 “restraint (sometimes not one person throughout the building) lead
 “him, not unnaturally ; to conclude that the management of lunatics
 “had here attained perfection, while the quiet and decent demeanour
 “of the inmates might almost make him doubt that he is really within
 “the walls of a madhouse. However, on an attentive consideration
 “of the subject, and on comparison of Bethlem with other institutions
 “of the kind, it is submitted that there is still room for considerable
 “improvement.”

While the Governors refer to the highly favourable opinion expressed in the first part of the above extract, they at once admit the justice of the concluding remark of the Commissioner ; indeed, there are very few establishments which do not in time present room for improvement. The learned Commissioner makes due allowance for many of the defects he points out as attributable to the site and construction of the building, and then proceeds with a degree of discrimination, calmness, and impartiality which should be exhibited on such occasions, to point out those defects which presented themselves to his attention. It is a proof of the anxiety of the Governors to profit by any suggestions, that not only have most of the improvements suggested by Mr. Commissioner Martin been adopted, but many other ameliorations introduced of a very important and costly character.

RESTRAINT.

Although Mr. Commissioner Martin speaks with approbation of the small number of patients under restraint at the time of his investigation (1836), being between three and four per cent., that amount has, by the unceasing attention of the Governors,

been gradually reduced to such a fractional minimum, that it can now hardly be said to exist.

While fully appreciating the superiority and humanity of the non-restraint system (a mode of treatment which has been looked upon with some disfavour by the Metropolitan Commissioners in Lunacy), it is not unattended with liabilities, which the Report shows may be made use of unfairly and ungenerously against those who advocate and adopt it.

The "non-restraint system" is not pursued, because no control over lunatic patients is necessary, but because it is believed that mechanical restraint is liable to abuse, in being applied to more patients and for a longer time than the necessity of the respective cases requires—and because all the necessary results can be attained by better classification, and more sedulous supervision by an increased number of attendants.

At the same time, it is not to be denied that the risk of accidents to attendants, and the necessity of occasional manual control for particular patients is increased; and in a Hospital like Bethlem, where most of the patients admitted are recent cases, and a large proportion of them dangerous both to themselves and others from the violent paroxysm of mania under which they are labouring, the personal safety of the attendants is frequently in imminent peril by sudden and violent attacks made upon them. Their own preservation and that of the other patients require that such attacks should be promptly suppressed. A struggle must often ensue, or the excited patient be allowed to wreak his fury on every thing within his reach; he is at length overpowered and security restored, leaving evidence of the struggle on both patient and attendants; but the irritation of the former is perhaps unsubdued, and this necessary repression of violence is not unnaturally detailed to his relations and friends, on their next visit, as the unprovoked cruelty of the attendants.

This is the price at which the abolition of mechanical restraint is purchased. The advantages so far counterbalance the disadvantages, and even the obloquy which result from those occasional exhibitions of violence which are inseparable from the non-restraint system, that

the Governors are quite prepared to encounter both rather than revert to those means of coercion which, while it might conduce to convenience, would at the same time impose great hardship on so many of the patients confided to their protection.

EMPLOYMENT.

In proportion as restraint has been diminished at Bethlem, so have the means of employment been increased,—a large range of commodious workshops were constructed several years ago, and the last Annual Report attests the great extent and variety of the employments for the amusement and occupation of the patients. For the males, there are full and well-devised means of occupation,—as Gardeners, Carpenters, Engineers, Smiths, Masons, Bricklayers, Plumbers, Tailors, and Shoemakers, and many others : while the females are occupied in household work, the laundry, dress-making, lace-making, and fancy-work, such as crochet and worsted work. Ample provision for amusement is also made,—a well-selected library, with various periodicals, a piano and other instruments, a billiard table, bagatelle boards, chess, and draughts, are provided for the men ; while the females have also a separate library, a piano, chess and draught boards, materials for writing and drawing, as well as for different descriptions of fancy-work ; and the last annual return, already referred to, exhibited the gratifying statement that no less than 72 per cent. of the patients were employed by the means above specified.

With reference to the religious exercises and instruction of the patients, the chapel has been enlarged to double its former extent—an organ has been provided, and above one-third of the patients regularly attend the services, which, when the peculiar and recent character of their disorder is considered, must be admitted to be an unusually large proportion, as well as satisfactory evidence of the generally tranquil state in which so large a number is maintained.

At the period Mr. Commissioner Martin wrote, the incurable patients were only partly maintained at the expense of the Hospital,

the deficiency, about 7s. per week, per head, being defrayed by the friends of the patients. Five years ago, the Governors relieved the friends from this charge, and the expenses of the incurable establishment is now wholly defrayed out of the funds of the Hospital.

CASE BOOKS AND MEDICAL RECORDS.

The Commissioners, referring to the directions of the Governors for the keeping of the Case Books, recognise "the explicit terms of "the judicious Regulations made by them for this purpose."

These Regulations were prepared by the Governors, under the advice of competent medical authority; and it is only medical men who can properly estimate the value or insufficiency of recorded cases. The Governors have kept over them the only check in their power. On the week following the discharge of any patient, they required the case of that patient, as entered, to be laid before them, signed by one of the Physicians, as a proof of his approval thereof; and this has always been done. If the Physicians were not satisfied with the mode in which the other cases were kept, they should at least have reported the circumstance, so that a remedy might have been provided. The Physicians, in their remarks on the Commissioners' Report have not adverted to the Case Books, nor to the charge of the Commissioners, that no proper record of the medicine administered to each patient has been kept. Under these circumstances, combined with the fact that Dr. Wood has not forwarded to the Governors any remarks whatever, they are unable to offer any observations on the subject, further than to say that a Prescription Book has, of course, always been kept, and that in it numerous entries have from time to time been made, many of which are in the handwriting of Sir Alexander Morison. It is obvious that Governors, not medical men, cannot be held responsible for the state of this record.

MEDICAL PUPILS.

The Governors have long been desirous of rendering Bethlem Hospital more extensively useful as a means of imparting information respecting the nature of Insanity, and the means of curing mental diseases, by inducing Pupils to attend and form a Medical School. The Physicians were at liberty to introduce into Bethlem Hospital a limited number of Pupils; and, in 1843, the Governors agreed to pay to the Physicians the fees of four additional Pupils, which payments were continued during several years.

In 1848 the Hospital was made available for Pupils, almost without limitation, by the adoption of the following Rules, which are still in force—

- 1st. That Pupils be admitted to attend the Hospital practice at Bethlem, during two separate terms in every year—the first commencing in October, and terminating in March; the second commencing in April, and terminating in July.
- 2nd. That, as soon as practicable, a course of Lectures be given in the second term, principally having reference to, and being illustrated by, the cases under consideration at the time.
- 3rd. That Pupils be permitted to enter for both Terms, or either of them, or for attendance on Lectures only.
- 4th. That each Pupil be required to pay a Fee, not exceeding Three Guineas, for attendance during each Term, or not exceeding One Guinea for attendance on Lectures only.
- 5th. That each Pupil be entitled to attend, and as far as possible have previous notice of all Post-Mortem Examinations made in the Hospital during his pupilage.
- 6th. That the attendance of Pupils be at such hours daily as shall be convenient to the Medical Officers of the Establishment, and at the same time least likely to interfere with the duties of those who are students in other Hospitals.
- 7th. That the Lectures be given from time to time, as shall hereafter be arranged.

The number of Pupils attending under these Regulations has not hitherto been large, but the Governors have reason to believe that it will increase; and that with a permanent Resident Physician, having no other professional occupation, a numerous class of highly educated Pupils will gladly avail themselves of the facilities afforded in Bethlem Hospital of obtaining instruction in this important branch of Medical Science, acting as a stimulus to the Medical Officers, and at the same time securing, by their presence and observation, the attainment of that kind and judicious system of treatment for which the Governors have always been solicitous.

REMARKS OF THE PHYSICIANS AND MATRON.

The Governors are desirous of abstaining from any lengthened reference to the Remarks on the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, received from the Physicians and the Matron, and entered in the Appendix, at the same time they feel it necessary to express their regret that the Physicians have not favoured them with more extensive information respecting the particular cases to which the Commissioners in Lunacy advert; and whilst they entirely concur with Dr. Munro, that it was the duty of the Physicians of Bethlem "to exercise a large and superintending control over the medical and general management of the Hospital," and that the carrying out of "the details and all minutiae" was left with "officers working under them," they cannot conceive how any Physician could exercise so large a control, or could superintend and direct subordinate officers, without giving that amount of attention to minutiae and details absolutely requisite to make himself acquainted with, at least, all the ordinary proceedings in the Institution under his care. The Governors are sorry to learn from Dr. Monro's concluding remarks, that he has not entertained this view of his duties, proving the propriety of those changes in the medical staff that have recently been made.

CHANGES IN THE MEDICAL STAFF.

The Letter of the Governors, transmitted to the Physicians, under date of the 7th May, 1852, sufficiently explain the reasons which actuated them in making those recent changes in the medical staff, which coincide with the recommendation of the Commissioners.

A RESIDENT PHYSICIAN* has been appointed, on whom have devolved those duties hitherto assigned to the Physicians who were non-resident. This Officer is entrusted with the paramount control of the treatment of the patients, and is responsible for the entire internal management of the Institution.

A RESIDENT APOTHECARY† has been appointed in the room of Dr. WOOD, who resigned his office in July last: and a MATRON has been appointed in the place of Mrs. HUNTER, also resigned.

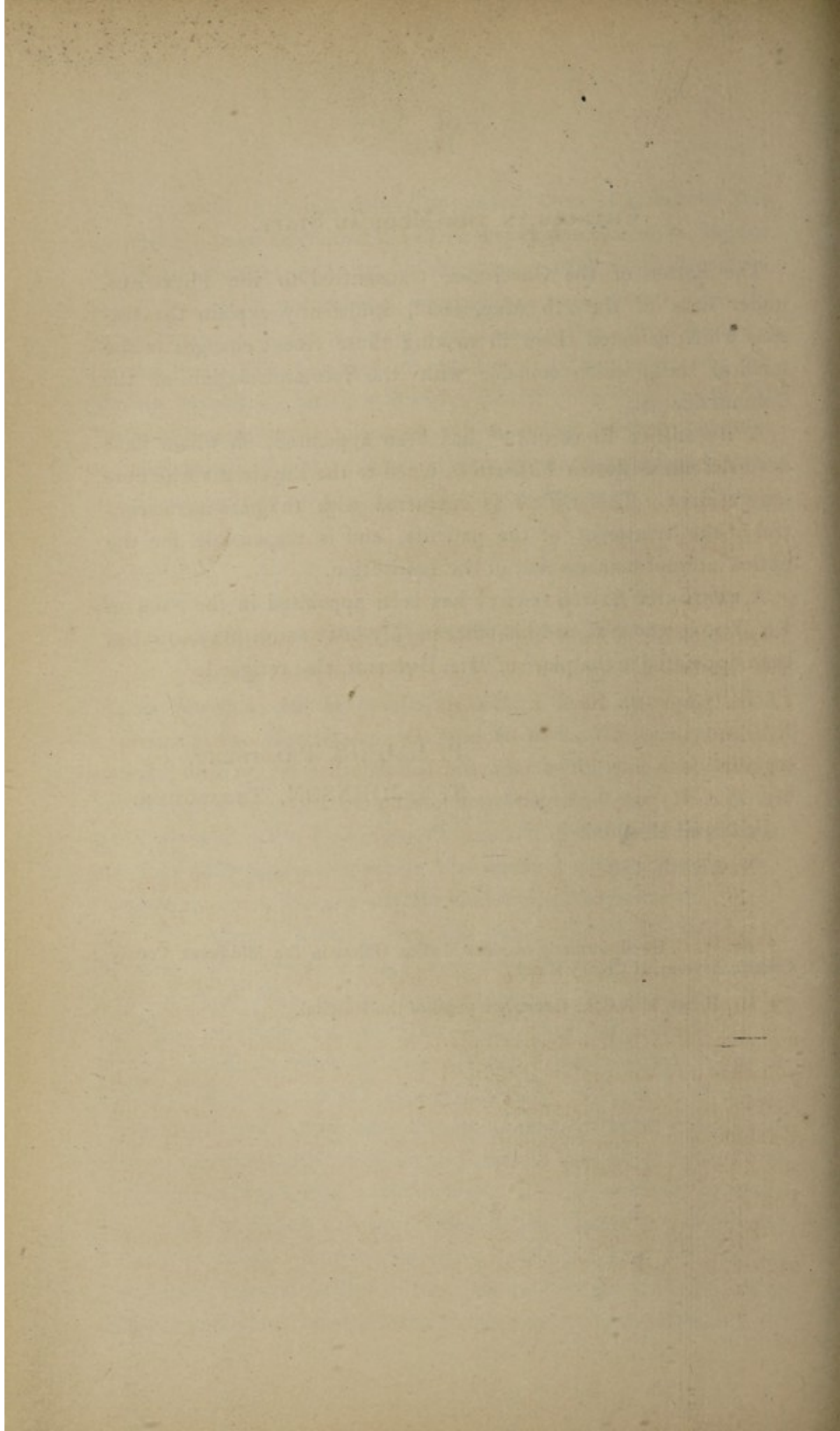
P. LAURIE, PRESIDENT,

T. E. JOHNSON, TREASURER.

Bridewell Hospital, }
Nov. 29th, 1852. }

* Dr. W. C. Hood, formerly resident Medical Officer in the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, at Colney Hatch.

† Mr. Helps, M.R.C.S., formerly a pupil of the Hospital.



APPENDIX A.

Copies of all Documents and Letters that have been received respecting the subject of the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on Bethlem Hospital, together with copies of all Replies that have been sent, of all Resolutions that have been passed, and of all directions that have been given.

On the 25th of April, 1851, the Treasurer laid before the Bethlem Sub-Committee,—present, the TREASURER, HENRY KEMBLE, Esq., P. N. LAURIE, Esq., P. GREEN, Esq., H. H. PENNY, Esq., R. BAGGALLAY, Esq., JOHN PEPYS, Esq., JAMES ANDERTON, Esq., together with the Physicians and the Apothecary,—a letter from Mr. T. J. HYSON, of which the following is a copy :—

“ 44, Hill Street, Walworth,
“ April 21, 1851.

“ Worshipful Sir,

“ Knowing from my boyhood your kindness and Urbanity, and your ever ready wish to redress abuse or wrong in any shape inflicted, more particularly in any Establishment in which you have any controul. I think I am only doing my duty as a Parent, in the first place—and in the second, to the Heads of an Establishment, who, I am sure, would never tolerate cruelty in any shape to be practised towards a poor Lunatic—and thirdly, to the Public.

“ I now, Sir, bring to your Notice a case of either cruelty or wanton neglect, in which my Poor Girl (our only Child) has fallen a sacrifice,

caused by or through the neglect of one of the Female Nurses or Keepers belonging to Bethlem Hospital. Now, Sir, for the facts, which can be verified by many respectable Witnesses.

“On Friday, April 4, my Daughter was admitted a Patient into Bethlem Hospital : on leaving her I was informed I might call in 8 or 9 days and enquire how she was; I called on April 12, which was 8 days. I saw both the Doctor and the Nurse, and was told she was somewhat better, that she took her food better; I went away satisfied. On the following Thursday I could not rest, something seemed to haunt my mind my Daughter was worse, I consequently wrote a Note to Dr. Wood stating my fears, and begging of him if any bad symptoms appeared to let me know, that her Mother might be with her; Dr. Wood was kind enough to forward me a Note in return to mine, informing me bad symptoms had appeared, and that my poor Girl was discharged; Me and her Mother immediately went to the Hospital, saw Dr. Wood, who rung for my Daughter—she was brought up to us. What our feelings were I hardly can tell, my Poor Girl could not stand, and was a complete Idiot. But, Sir, what was my horror when called up stairs by her Mother and others, when they had undressed her to put her to bed, her body, her legs, and her arms has above 20 wounds and lacerations on them, 2 also on her face; her bones ready to start through the skin, how caused or inflicted no one who has seen her but wish and desire to know. Her Medical Attendant can speak as to her condition both before her admission and since her return. And if, Sir Peter, you would condescend to pay my humble abode a visit, you would then see I have not made the case one iota worse than it really is; in fact my pen but feebly tells the sad tale. I have no doubt ere these lines reach you my Poor Girl will be in her Coffin, but that shall not prevent your satisfying yourself as to the truth of my statement.

“Permit me,

Sir Peter,

to Subscribe Myself,

Your most Obedient Servt.,

“To Sir Peter Laurie.”

“T. J. HYSON.”

This patient was admitted into the Hospital in a very feeble state of health on the 4th of April, 1851. She was removed on the 18th, having become paralytic, and died on the 21st of the same month.

The Treasurer reported, that on hearing the complaint of Mr. Hyson, he had caused the body of the deceased to be examined by Sir Alexander Morison and Mr Lawrence, who had furnished him with written certificates respecting its state; and he had since received a further written certificate, as to the state of the body, from Mr. Frederick Augustus Crisp and Mr. Charles Taylor, (the medical attendants of Mr. Hyson,) with Dr. Wood, the Apothecary of the Hospital, who had together examined the body, and made a *post mortem* examination.

The following are copies of these certificates :—

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ 22 April, 1851,

“ One o'clock, P.M.

“ By desire of the Treasurer of Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals, I have just examined the body of Hannah Hyson, late a patient in Bethlem Hospital; I found several superficial bruises on different parts of her body, and redness and tendency to excoriation about the nates, none of them at all connected with the cause of her death, which was occasioned by General Paralysis. The bruises I consider to be accidental, and in no way to be attributed to want of care and kindness.

“ ALEX. MORISON, M.D.”

“ Whitehall Place,

“ April 22, 1851.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I have inspected the body of the young woman lately discharged from Bethlem, now lying at 44, Hill Street, Walworth, and could see nothing leading to the conclusion, or even the sus-

picion that she had met with ill usage before death. There had been no open sore at the time of death. The buttocks were red and slightly excoriated from having been wetted with urine, as generally happens in dirty patients, and the hips were in a nearly similar state, the bones having become very prominent in consequence of the patient's considerable emaciation, and the skin having consequently been fretted by the position of the body, and probably by the restlessness of the patient. There were four or five brownish and quite dry marks, where the skin had been probably excoriated, principally on the legs, and there was a very faint bruise mark near one of them. The surrounding skin in all these situations was of its natural pale color: such appearances, and probably to a greater extent, would almost inevitably be found on the body of a patient who had been in a violent state for two or three weeks before death.

"I remain, my dear Sir,

"Yours very faithfully,

"WM. LAWRENCE."

"J. E. Johnson, Esq."

"April 23rd, 1851.

"Examination of the Body of Hannah Hyson.

"Body emaciated, some superficial abrasions on the surface of the lower extremities, probably owing to scratching or picking of the skin, slight ecchymosis under back part of scalp, a small chronic abscess in the integument of the right side of head, apparently connected with an old wound, the scar of which was obvious, but must have been healed some months.

"On removing the calvarium, the arachnoid was found universally opaque, the pia mater loaded with serum, the ventricles considerably distended with fluid, capable of holding from 2 to 3 ounces each; nothing further morbid observed in the brain, which was of average firmness; some fluid remained in the base of the skull after the

brain was removed; the lungs were healthy; some old adhesions existed in the left pleura; heart rather flabby, abdominal viscera healthy.

“ We are of opinion that the death of the deceased was clearly referable to the disease observed within the skull, which had existed some months, and there was no evidence that she had sustained any injury which could in any way have hastened her death.

“ Wm. Wood, M.D.

“ Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians,

“ Frederick Augustus Crisp,

“ M.R.C.S.E. & L.A.C.

“ Charles Taylor,

“ M.R.C.S. & L.A.C.”

The Treasurer further reported, that he had informed Mr. Hyson that his complaint would be investigated this day (25th April, 1851,) and had requested him to attend with such witnesses as he might wish should be heard in the investigation.

Mr. Hyson, attending, was heard at considerable length; after which six witnesses whom he called were respectively heard.

Dr. Wood, the Matron, and all the Attendants in the gallery which the patient occupied, and who received her on admission, were also severally examined, and the certificates of the several medical gentlemen above-mentioned were read, after which it was resolved: “ That the Sub-Committee are of opinion that the charge of cruelty against the attendants has not been made out. That the appearances which the body presented must almost inevitably be found on the body of a patient who had been in a violent state for two or three weeks before death.”

The slight scratch on one side of the face was accounted for, and had been reported to the medical officers and matron immediately it occurred.

Slight bruises were known to exist on the body of the patient during her stay in the Hospital; but as they were exceedingly slight they were considered by the attendants not to be of sufficient importance to be reported to the medical officers or matron. The Sub-Committee, thereupon, directed that every bruise or wound, however slight, should in all cases be in future reported.

Mr. Hyson then thanked the Sub-Committee for the great attention they had paid to the investigation, whereupon the inquiry terminated.

On the 12th of May, 1852, the Treasurer laid before the General Committee for conducting the affairs of the Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem the following letters he had received from Mr. Hyson, with the replies he had directed to be sent to each:—

“ 44, Hill Street, Walworth,
“ May 5, 1851.

“ Sir,

“ On Friday, April 25, you informed me I should be furnished with any Document or writing I might wish to have concerning the inquiry in my poor Daughter's case.

“ I now, Sir, crave that permission, which is, that I may be furnished with my letter (or a copy of it) to Sir Peter Laurie; likewise a Copy of the testimony of each Witness which you have in writing; also Dr. Wood's letter to me, which is in your possession.

“ If, Sir, you will inform me when, where, and how, I may obtain my request, I shall feel it my duty to attend your commands.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ T. J. HYSON.”

“ To John Johnson, Esq.,

“ Bridewell Hospital.”

“Bridewell Hospital,
“ May 7th, 1851.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed by the Treasurer of the Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals to forward to you the enclosed papers, which are the copies of the Medical Reports he promised you on the 25th ultimo, together with Dr. Wood's note, of the 18th April last, to yourself.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ B. WELTON.”

“ Mr. T. J. Hyson,

“ 44, Hill Street,

“ Walworth.”

“ 44, Hill Street, Walworth,
“ May 8, 1851.

“ Sir,

“ In accordance with your promise that I should have any documents I wished, I wrote to you on Monday last to the effect, ‘That I might be furnished with a Copy of my letter to Sir P. Laurie, likewise Dr. Wood's letter to me (which you have), and also a Copy of the evidence of all the Witnesses.’

“ Now, Sir, I must acknowledge I feel greatly surprised I have received no answer to my letter of that date ; the reasons rest with your worthy self ; I have merely asked for what you promised, and what I consider only an act of justice, and my right. An early answer will greatly oblige, Sir,

“ Your very

“ Obedient Servant,

“ T. J. HYSON.”

“ To J. Johnson, Esq.,

“ Bridewell Hospital.”

“44, Hill Street, Walworth,

“May 8, 1851.

“Sir,

“I have to acknowledge the receipt of only a part of what I asked you to furnish me with (that is, Dr. Wood’s letter); I likewise thank you for the Copies of the Medical Certificates.

“But, Sir, what I asked you to furnish me with was, not only Dr. Wood’s letter, but a Copy of my letter to Sir P. Laurie, and a Copy of the evidence of the Witnesses examined.

“Now, Sir, you distinctly told me ‘I should have any writings or documents I might wish.’ Sir, I wrote you my wish, as above, in a plain, (and I trust in a respectful manner) to which you tamper with a Parent’s feelings, by sending me (after 3 days delay) only one of my three requests, and say nothing of the other two. You assign no reason why you withhold them from me. If, Sir, I am to have justice, in God’s name let me have it! If I have not wealth on my side, I have the naked truth, and the Public to fairly weigh my case; I have, likewise, abundance of most respectable evidence to prove my statement.

“Hitherto, Sir, I have refrained from giving any publicity to the affair, and whatever may have appeared in the Public Journals has not been my doings in any way, though I have had many applications to that effect.

“But, Sir, the denying me what I have asked of you,—that which I consider my right (the evidence of the witnesses) has caused a very different feeling in my mind concerning the whole affair.

“I am,

“Sir,

“Your obedient Servant,

“To J. E. Johnson, Esq.”

“T. J. HYSON.”

“N.B. I should feel greatly obliged by your informing me whether you *will* furnish me with a Copy of the evidence of the witnesses.”

“Bridewell Hospital, 9th May, 1851.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed by the Treasurer to inform you that he will, on Monday next, submit your two letters, of the 8th instant, to the consideration of the Committee of Governors, by whom the affairs of the Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals are conducted.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ Mr. T. J. Hyson,

“ B. WELTON.”

“ 44, Hill Street,

“ Walworth.”

The Committee after considering these Letters resolved, —1st, That this Committee approve of the course pursued by the Treasurer; and with the consent of the President, Sir Peter Laurie, readily comply with Mr. Hyson’s request to be immediately furnished with a copy of his letter to the President of the 21st of April last.

2nd—That no *complete* notes of the evidence of the several witnesses examined at Bethlem Hospital on the 25th of April last were taken, but if Mr. Hyson have further evidence to offer, or be desirous of having his case re-heard, the Committee will immediately afford him an opportunity, when he will be at liberty to take any notes he may think proper.

Copies of these Resolutions were forwarded to Mr. Hyson on the 12th of May, 1851, with the following letter :—

“Bridewell Hospital, 12th May, 1851.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed to forward you the enclosed Minute of the Committee of Governors, held this day, together with a Copy of your letter to Sir Peter Laurie, the President, of the 21st of April last.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ Mr. T. J. Hyson,

“ B. WELTON.”

“ 44, Hill street,

“ Walworth.”

On Friday, May 16, 1851, the Treasurer laid before the Bethlem Sub-Committee another letter he had received from Mr. Hyson, with the reply he had directed to be sent, as follows:—

“ 44, Hill Street, Walworth,
“ May 13, 1851.

“ Sir,

“ You have my sincere thanks for what you forwarded me by post on the 12th (yesterday).

“ In answer to your last paragraph of the Resolutions, ‘ That no complete notes of the evidence was taken on the 25th April,’ there must be some mistake on your part. I most respectfully beg to inform you that not only your worthy self wrote down what each witness stated, but the gentleman on my right hand (Mr. Welton, I believe), that we are all ready to prove.

“ Now, sir, it is my sincere wish to have another interview with the Board of Governors. I only wish for what is just ; nothing more; and I fully believe, or hope so, my conduct throughout this painful business has been nothing but strictly proper.

“ If, Sir, you will inform me when an interview will be granted me, I shall feel it my duty to attend your commands.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ To J. E. Johnson, Esq.”

“ T. J. HYSON.

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ 15th May, 1851.

“ Sir,

“ I am desired by the Treasurer to inform you that he found your letter of the 13th inst. on his return from the country late last evening, and that he will lay it before the Committee of Governors which will meet to-morrow at Bethlem Hospital.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ B. WELTON.”

“ Mr. T. J. Hyson, 44, Hill Street,

“ Walworth.”

Whereupon it was resolved that Friday, the 23d instant, at twelve o'clock, should be fixed for the further attendance of Mr. Hyson, to whom the following letter was immediately sent:—

“Bridewell Hospital,
“16th May, 1851.

“Sir,

“The Treasurer having this day laid before the Sub-Committee of Governors your letter of the 13th of May inst., in which you state that it is your wish to have another interview with the Governors, I am directed to acquaint you that the Sub-Committee are ready to comply with your wish, and will see you at Bethlem Hospital on Friday next, the 23rd of May, at twelve o'clock precisely.

“I am, Sir,

“Your obedient Servant,

“B. WELTON.”

“Mr. T. J. Hyson, 44, Hill Street,
“Walworth.”

It is right to observe here, that Mr. Hyson is in error in his statement respecting the notes that were taken during the investigation on the 25th of April. The evidence of the witnesses in support of the complaint was taken at considerable length, but that of the other witnesses was taken very shortly, the general impression being that the case had failed.

On Friday, the 23rd May, 1851, the Treasurer submitted to the Bethlem Sub-Committee a further letter from Mr. Hyson, to which a reply was directed to be sent.

The letter and the reply are as follows:—

“44, Hill Street, Walworth,
“May 22, 1851.

“Sir,

“In answer to your letter of the 16th inst., I am sorry to inform you my health is such, owing to continued anxiety in this

affair, and, acting under advice, I feel myself unable to the task to-morrow.

“At the same time, I must beg the right (with your kind permission) to reserve to myself a future day to bring my case before your ‘Honourable Board.’

“Permit me to say I will give you sufficient notice of my ability so to bring it forward.

“A line in answer will greatly oblige,

“Sir,

“Your very obedient Servant,

“T. J. HYSON.”

“To J. E. Johnson, Esq.”

“Bridewell Hospital, May 23, 1851.

“Sir,

“I am requested to inform you, in reply to your letter of yesterday, addressed to the Treasurer, that the Governors, assembled at Bethlem Hospital this day, are sorry to hear of your indisposition. They will appoint another day for an interview with you, when they hear you are prepared to attend.

“I am, Sir,

“Your obedient servant,

“Mr. T. J. Hyson,

“B. WELTON.”

“44, Hill Street, Walworth.”

With a view of completing the correspondence with Mr. Hyson, a letter received from him at a much later period, with the reply that was directed to be sent, are here given as follows:—

“Gentlemen,

“I have taken the liberty to address you on a subject to me most painful—Bethlem Hospital.

“It cannot be denied, I, in the first instance, took the trouble and expense of waiting on Sir Peter Laurie, and informed him the true state of the case. Feeling assured of Sir Peter’s love of justice,

I am sure he never thought the system so bad, or he never would have wished to put off the rehearing for three weeks, seeing that in that time I might have lost my witnesses (they being entire strangers to me); consequently, my communicating to the Commission in Lunacy a system of treatment I am sure no one Governor of Bethlem Hospital would tolerate for one moment.

“ The perusal of the ‘ Report’ must convince you, Gentlemen, the great trouble and expense I have been put to in furnishing my share of it—beside of an expenditure of upwards of £30 0s. 0d. in money, I was, through anxiety and broken rest, thrown on a bed of sickness for 7 weeks--and being only a poor man it has nearly ruined me.

“ Having, Gentlemen, with reluctance on my own part—but by the persuasion of several Gentlemen, laid the bare facts before your ‘ Honourable Board’ (and which can be verified), I beg to throw myself and my case into your hands, hoping you may deem me worthy your kind consideration, and deserving some remuneration in bringing to your knowledge many facts which never would have come out had it not been for my untiring perseverance.

“ Hoping, Gentlemen, you may deem this worthy your favourable answer, allow me to subscribe myself,

“ Your

“ Very Humble Servant,

“ THOS. JOSEPH HYSON.”

“ 22, Lower Kennington Green, Aug, 28, 1852.

“ To the Governors of Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals.”

“ Aug. 30, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I am requested by the Committee of Governors of Bethlem Hospital to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, and to inform you that they are at all times thankful for any information that may assist them in placing the Hospital in the most

efficient state for the important purposes for which it was founded ; at the same time they feel they cannot comply with your request for pecuniary remuneration.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ B. WELTON.”

“ Mr. Thomas Joseph Hyson,

“ 22, Lower Kennington Green.”

On Saturday, the 28th June, four of the Commissioners in Lunacy visited Bethlem Hospital.

The following is a Report on the subject made to the Treasurer by Dr. Wood, the Apothecary of the Hospital, immediately afterwards:—

“ On Saturday, 28th June, Dr. Hume, Messrs. Procter, Campbell, and Gaskill, four of the Commissioners of Lunacy, came to the Hospital with an order from the Secretary of State, authorizing them to visit and make enquiries as to the management and treatment of the patients, and more particularly of one of the patients,—A. M., who was admitted October, 1850, and removed at the request of friends the following December. After inspecting every part of the Hospital, the Commissioners stated that a complaint had been made by the friends of the patient, A. M., which was supported by the statements of Dr. Nesbitt, the Medical Superintendent of the Northampton Asylum, that she had been improperly treated and neglected while in Bethlem Hospital. It was alleged, in the written statement of the patient’s sister, which was read, that the patient was seen by her sister, a few days after her admission, with a black eye,—that she was made to sleep on straw, without any other covering, than a single rug or blanket, and, consequently, without anything to protect her body from the straw; that on one occasion, when she had offended the nurse, she was put to bed without any covering at all, and remained so through the night ; and once, when she had been dirty, the nurse made her get up, and though at the time in a very weak state, wash her shift herself,

It was further complained, that the nurses generally used her very harshly, and called her "Black Sall," and that when she was taken from the Hospital she was exceedingly weak, very much emaciated, was sore about her back and seat, and suffered from prolapsus of the intestines.

"The Commissioners examined the Case Book, and read the report of her case; they also requested me to state anything that I remembered of the patient. Mrs. Hunter, and the nurse, under whose charge the patient was, also stated what they knew of her, and from these statements, it appeared, what indeed was admitted, that the patient was always dirty. It was well known to all that her general health was very much impaired,—that she was weak and emaciated, and the nurse stated that the prolapsus was reported to me,—that I directed her what to do for it,—that the treatment was successful, and that the patient did not suffer from it again. One of the Commissioners remarked, that this was a malady that was not *cured*, and could only be alleviated from time to time. It was therefore quite possible that the patient arrived at Northampton, after so long a journey, with a return of the symptoms. The nurse denied that the patient was treated harshly, but believed some of the other patients had called her "Black Sall;" She also denied that she was ever put to bed without proper covering, or that she was ever made to wash her own linen,—she admitted that the patient's skin was very red at the bottom of the back and seat, from her being continually wet and dirty, but denied that the skin was broken. The statement about the black eye was believed to be true, but by what accident it occurred could not be remembered.

"The Commissioners proceeded to make some enquiries into the general management of the Hospital, and the Rules for the various officers and servants, and said they would make an official application to be furnished with copies of the Rules, and of the case of the patient, A. M., as it appeared in the Case Book, and any other records of the Hospital."

" W. WOOD."

On Friday, the 4th July, 1851, the President laid before the Bethlem Sub-Committee a letter from the Commissioners in Lunacy, of which the following is a copy:—

“ Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,
 “ 19, New Street,
 “ Spring Gardens,
 “ 3rd July, 1851.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy to inform you that, conformably to the intention expressed in my Letter of the 27th ult., four Members of the Board visited Bethlehem Hospital on Saturday last.

“ The Commissioners direct me to state, that one special object of their visit was, to enquire into a case of alleged ill-treatment, or neglect, on the part of one or more servants of the establishment, towards a female patient, of the name of *A. M.*, who was admitted therein on the 6th October last, and was removed on the 27th of the following December, and (within a day or two afterwards) placed in the Northampton Lunatic Hospital.

“ The statement submitted to the Commissioners in Lunacy in reference to this case, was to the following effect, viz. :—

“ ‘ That within a few days after the patient’s admission, she received a black eye, the cause of which her friends were unable to ascertain. That she was soon afterwards placed in the basement story, where she lay on straw, and suffered very much from the cold. That she was treated with great harshness by the nurse to whose care she was entrusted. That the nurse (being angry) on one occasion removed the quilt, under which the patient usually lay, so that she was exposed, throughout the night, to the cold, without having any covering upon her. That on another night the nurse gave her a shower bath, and on a third night made her get up (although then very ill) and forced her to stand at the wash-tub and wash some of her linen; and further, that the nurses in that part of the Hospital were in the habit of addressing her by certain offensive names.

“ ‘ That the patient was eventually removed from Bethlehem Hospital on the 27th of December last. That at this time she was in very bad bodily health and condition, being very much emaciated, having swollen legs, a prolapsus causing extreme pain, a sore on

each hip, and her back extensively excoriated, apparently caused by lying on the straw, added to which, her bowels were almost unceasingly in action.

“ ‘On the day after her removal from Bethlehem Hospital the patient was admitted into the Northampton Hospital, where the treatment adopted was so successful that her bodily, as well as mental health speedily began to improve, and was eventually re-established. She has since been restored to her friends quite recovered.’

“ ‘The foregoing charge, or statement, so far as respects the bodily condition of the patient on her admission into the Northampton Lunatic Hospital, was corroborated by Dr. Nesbitt, the resident medical officer of that institution, who stated as follows, viz. :—

“ ‘Her state upon admission was most deplorable, with an attenuated frame; her system was so enfeebled that she was unable to sit up. She had prolapsus of the *uterus* and *anus*, with great mucous discharges, and suffered severely from *tenesmus*. Her lower extremities were livid and *œdematous*, and their motion paralysed. On the hips and *nates* were a great many abrasions of the surface, varying in size from a millet-seed to a split-pea. She had also on different parts of the body copper-coloured eruptions. She was quite unconscious of the calls of nature, and her urine and *feces* passed under her.

“ ‘The treatment pursued was in the first place to give her a comfortable bed, and to attend to her infirmities by frequent change of linen. Morphia, the hydriodate of potass, and the local application of oak bark decoction, with generous diet, enabled her to get up in the course of three weeks, and from that time to this her course has been one of progressive improvement.

“ ‘She was always quiet, patient, and grateful for attention; and after one month’s residence all her faulty habits entirely left her.’

“ ‘Dr. Nesbitt having been asked for his opinion, as to the cause of the abrasions and sores on the body of the patient, replied—that he had ‘no hesitation in stating that such appearances were refer-

able to neglect.' After proceeding to relate that the patient had uniformly complained to him of the 'harsh and coarse treatment' to which she was subjected in Bethlehem Hospital, of her lying on the straw (without anything being interposed between that and her body), of her being without covering, and of the conduct of the nurses 'who treated her like a brute.' Dr. Nesbitt concludes by saying,—

“ ‘As the patient is remarkable for truthfulness, and more desirous of burying in oblivion that part of her life spent in Bethlehem, I cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that the abrasions are referable to the straw, which, in both its wet and dry state, would produce an irritation of the surface exactly calculated to tend to a solution of continuity in a bed-ridden patient, and in connexion with her want of cleanliness.’

“ In the course of the investigation made at Bethlehem Hospital, on Saturday last, the Visiting Commissioners endeavoured to ascertain on whom the duties devolved of taking care of Miss A. M., of visiting her, and enquiring into her case from time to time, and of reporting upon it, and, generally, upon whom the responsibility would rest in case of any ill-treatment or neglect being proved. In the absence, however, of the various Rules and Regulations now in force in Bethlehem Hospital, the Commissioners were unable to form any conclusive opinion, and have therefore adjourned the enquiry. And they now direct me to say, that they will feel obliged by your ordering copies of those Rules and Regulations to be transmitted to this office, in order to enable the Commissioners to make the necessary Report to Secretary Sir George Grey, and to answer any enquiries that the Board of Governors may deem it expedient to make on the subject.

“The Rules and Regulations which I am instructed to apply for are,—

“ 1. The General Rules for the Management of the Hospital.

“ 2. The Rules and Regulations for the guidance of the Officers of the Institution.

“3. The Rules and Regulations for the guidance of the Attendants.

“Together with any recent Alterations, Resolutions, or Directions in reference to any of the above.

“I am instructed to say that the Commissioners will be very glad to receive any suggestions, or assistance which the Board of Governors may do them the favour to afford to them on the subject of this enquiry.

“I have the honor to be,

“Sir,

“Your very obedient Servant,

“R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

“Secretary.”

“P.S. The Commissioners direct me to add, that other cases have been brought before them in reference to the treatment of patients in Bethlehem Hospital, and that one of them is now under the consideration of the Board.

“To

“Sir Peter Laurie,

“&c. &c. &c.”

Whereupon it was resolved and ordered,—

“That the several documents required by the Commissioners in Lunacy be transmitted to them forthwith, and that the Commissioners be informed that the Governors will most readily co-operate with them, and afford every assistance in the investigation of any case relating to the treatment of any Patient in the Hospital.”

On the same day the Secretary of the Commissioners in Lunacy attended at Bethlem Hospital and served on the Treasurer a summons, of which the following is a copy:—

“8 & 9 VICT. CAP, 100, SECTION 100.

“We, the Commissioners in Lunacy, appointed under or by virtue of an Act passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her present

Majesty, entitled 'An Act for the Regulation of the Care and Treatment of Lunatics,' do hereby summon and require you personally to appear before us at the Office of the Commissioners in Lunacy, situate, No. 19, New Street, Spring Gardens, in the City of Westminster, on Monday, the 7th day of July inst., at the Hour of One in the Afternoon of the same Day, and then and there to be examined touching certain matters relating to the execution of the said Act, more especially with reference to Bethlehem Hospital, and the cases of certain persons late patients therein.

"Sealed with the Common Seal of the 'Commissioners of Lunacy,' this Third Day of July, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty One.

"Witness

"(Signed) R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

"Secy."

"To — Johnson, Esq.,

"Treasurer

"of the

"Royal Hospital of Bethlehem,

"St. George's Fields."

L. S.

Summonses, similar, as it is believed, were served at the same time on the Apothecary, the Matron, and several Attendants.

On the following day the Treasurer received from the Secretary to the Commissioners in Lunacy a letter as follows:—

"Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,

"19, New Street,

"Spring Gardens,

"4th July, 1851.

"Sir,

"Since I was at Bethlehem Hospital this morning I have communicated with the Commissioners in Lunacy, by whom I am directed to express their wish to see Sarah Burrows, late a Nurse, and now a Servant in the Hospital. With this view I am to request

that you will favour the Commissioners by causing the accompanying summons to be delivered to her.

“ I am,
“ Sir,
“ Your obedient Servant,
“ R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,
“ Secretary.”

“ J. E. Johnson, Esq.”

This letter, contained a summons for an attendant, named Sarah Burrows, which was given to her.

The Treasurers and the Officers and Attendants, as above stated, were examined at the office of the Commissioners in Lunacy on the 7th of July, and various others were examined afterwards, during a period of many weeks.

On the 1st of August, 1851, the President received from the Commissioners in Lunacy a letter as follows:—

“ Office of Commissioners of Lunacy,
“ 19, New Street,
“ Spring Gardens,
“ 1st August, 1851.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy, with reference to the pending inquiry relative to the Royal Hospital of Bethlehem, and the treatment of Patients therein, to apprise you, as President of the Hospital, that, in making their Report to Secretary Sir George Grey (which they are about immediately to do,) the Commissioners will probably feel it their duty to offer some observations, and submit some suggestions upon the subject, with a view to the improvement of its system of management.

“ Before, however, so doing, the Commissioners desire to afford the Committee of Governors and yourself an opportunity of making any statements or communications which you, or any other Member of the Committee, may be disposed to submit for the consideration of this Board.

“You will oblige the Commissioners by availing yourself of the earliest convenient opportunity to communicate the contents of this letter to the Committee of Governors, and by informing them of the result with as little delay as possible.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ To

“ R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,
Secretary.”

“ Sir Peter Laurie,

“ 7, Park Square,

“ Regent’s Park.”

On the following day the president attended at the office of the Commissioners in Lunacy, and, in the absence of the Commissioners, informed their Secretary, that so long as the Governors were unacquainted with the wishes of the Commissioners and of what had occurred before them, it would be impossible for the Governors to make any statement.

On the 8th August, the President received the following, which he immediately forwarded to the Treasurer, with a note asking if he had any one to propose for examination: —

“ Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,

“ 19, New Street,

“ Spring Gardens,

“ 7th August, 1851.

“ Dear Sir,

“ With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, in reply to mine of the 1st, which has been laid before this Board, I am instructed to say that, being desirous of obtaining full information upon all matters relevant to the subject of the pending inquiry into the management of, and treatment of Patients in Bethlehem Hospital, the Commissioners in Lunacy are prepared to examine yourself and any other Governors, or any of the Officers of the Institution, or other parties, whose names you will do them the favour to suggest.

“I am to add, that the inquiries of the Commissioners are specially directed to the system of management, and the arrangements, medical and otherwise, bearing upon the care and treatment of the Patients.

“You will oblige the Commissioners by a reply at your earliest convenience, with a view to the prosecution of the inquiry and examination of witnesses on Thursday next, the day of weekly meeting of the Board.

“I remain,

“Dear Sir,

“Yours truly,

“R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

“Secretary.”

“To

“Sir Peter Laurie,

“&c. &c.”

On the 9th August, the Treasurer addressed the President as follows, in reply:—

“Bridewell Hospital,

“August 9, 1851.

“My dear Sir Peter,

“I found your letter of yesterday inclosing that of the Commissioners in Lunacy of the preceding day, on my return last evening from the Surrey Assizes. I have no one to propose for examination before the Commissioners on Thursday next. I feel it to be quite impossible for any Governor to offer, on behalf of the Hospital, any defence against charges, the particulars of which have not been communicated to him, especially when (presuming that his examination will be conducted as mine was) he will not be at liberty to make the statements he may be most desirous of making, but will be confined to the answering of such questions as may be put to him.

It is only just that any charge made against the Hospital should be communicated to the Governors, that the investigation of such charge should be conducted in their presence, and that they should

have the opportunity of submitting any defence they may have to offer.

“ I am certain I am expressing the sentiments of a large majority, if not of the whole, of the Governors, when I state that they are desirous that the Hospital should be as perfect as circumstances will admit—that they will be the very last to excuse any misconduct in any of their officers or servants, and that they will thankfully receive and consider any suggestions that may be made to them for the amelioration of the Institution ; at the same time, I feel they ought not to be required to make any reply to charges, of the particulars of which they have no knowledge, and which have been investigated with closed doors and in their absence. I trust you will continue to press on the Commissioners the propriety of their submitting to the Governors the various charges made against the management of Bethlem and the treatment of patients therein, before they require from such Governors any information as to the improvements they have in contemplation.

“ Believe me to remain,

“ My dear Sir Peter,

“ Yours very sincerely,

“ J. E. JOHNSON,

“ Treasurer.”

“ Sir Peter Laurie.”

On the 12th February, 1852, the following letter was addressed to the President:—

“ Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,

“ 19, New Street,

“ Spring Gardens,

“ 12th Feb., 1852.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I am directed by this Board to apprize you, for the information of the Governors of Bethlem Hospital, that, after some unavoidable delay, the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy upon the management of and treatment of Patients in the Hospital, with

a copy of the short-hand writer's notes of the evidence taken upon the inquiry, has been transmitted to Secretary Sir George Grey.

“ I remain,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Yours faithfully,

“ R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

“ Secretary.”

“ To

“ Sir Peter Laurie,

“ President,

“ Bethlem Hospital.”

On the 21st February, 1852, four printed copies of the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on Bethlem Hospital, marked *Confidential*, were received at the Hospital, with the following letter:—

“ Whitehall,

“ 21st February, 1852.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I am directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to transmit to you herewith some Copies of a Report, which he has received from the Commissioners in Lunacy, relative to the condition and management of Bethlehem Hospital:— And I am to request your attention to the alleged defects in the management of the Hospital, and to express Sir George Grey's hope that measures will be adopted without delay for remedying such defects.

The evidence which accompanied the Report shall be transmitted to you, if you desire it.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Gentlemen,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ H. WADDINGTON.”

“ The Governors

“ of Bethlehem Hospital.”

The following reply was sent :—

“ Bridewell Hospital,
 “ New Bridge Street,
 “ Blackfriars.
 “ 24th February, 1852.

“ Sir

“ I am directed by the President and Treasurer of the Royal Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., together with some Copies of the Report to Sir George Grey from the Commissioners in Lunacy relative to Bethlem Hospital, and to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, that a Special Court of Governors will be summoned, who will give their best consideration to the matters referred to therein.

“ I am further directed by the President and Treasurer to request that the evidence which accompanied the Report may be transmitted to them.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ B. WELTON,

“ Clerk.”

“ H. Waddington, Esq.,

“ Under Secretary of State,

“ Home Department.”

On the 25th February the Evidence, as requested, was sent with the following:—

“ Whitehall,

“ 26th February, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ In pursuance of the request of the President and Treasurer of the Royal Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlehem, expressed in your letter of the 24th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir

George Grey to transmit to you herewith the evidence which accompanied the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on the management of Bethlehem Hospital.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient servant.

“ H. WADDINGTON.”

“ The Clerk of Bridewell
 “ and Bethlehem Hospitals,
 “ New Bridge Street,
 “ Blackfriars.”

The reply was:—

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ 28th February, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed, by the President and Treasurer of the Royal Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, together with the Evidence, in sixteen parts, which accompanied the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Secretary of State, on the management of Bethlem Hospital; and I am to convey to you the thanks of the President and Treasurer for the same.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ B. WELTON,

“ Clerk.”

“ H. Waddington, Esq.,
 “ Under Secretary of State,
 “ Home Department.”

At a general meeting of the Committee for Conducting the Affairs of the Hospital, held on the 8th March, 1852, the letters just given, and the replies thereto, were read, and the copies of the Reports and Evidence were laid upon the table. Whereupon it was ordered:—

“That the Letter from Mr. Waddington, the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, transmitting a Report, marked ‘confidential,’ of the Commissioners in Lunacy on Bethlem Hospital, to the Secretary of State, be printed with such Report and the Evidence subsequently received ; and that a Copy thereof be, in the first instance, forwarded to each Member of this Committee.”

The printing of the Report and Evidence was completed, but no copy had been issued, when the following was received:—

“ (*Immediate.*)

“ Whitehall,

“ 27th March, 1852.

“ Gentlemen,

“ It having been represented to Mr. Secretary Walpole that you have taken steps for the printing of the Evidence annexed to the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on Bethlem Hospital, which was transmitted to you for perusal on the 26th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Walpole to desire that the Evidence may not be printed without the sanction of the Secretary of State.

“ I have the honor to be,

“ Gentlemen,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ WM. G. H. JOLLIFFE.”

“ The Governors

“ Of Bethlem Hospital.

“ Care of Mr. Welton,

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ New Bridge Street.”

The following was the reply:—

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ 31st March, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed by the President and Treasurer of Bethlem Hospital to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th

instant, intimating the desire of Mr. Secretary Walpole that the Evidence annexed to the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on Bethlem Hospital may not be printed without his sanction; and I am to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Walpole, that the reason which actuated the Committee of Governors in directing the Report and Evidence to be printed was the great difficulty of the several Members forming an opinion upon the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy without having the opportunity of carefully and leisurely examining the Evidence upon which such Report is founded; at the same time they directed that, with a copy of the Report and Evidence, a Letter should be sent to each Member of the Committee, stating the confidential nature of the document.

“ The printing of the Report and Evidence was completed before the receipt of your note of the 27th instant, and a copy is sent herewith. No other copy has been issued, and the President and Treasurer will of course suspend the transmission of a copy to any Member of the Committee until they have the sanction of the Secretary of State for so doing.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ B. WELTON, Clerk.”

“ Sir Wm. G. Hylton Jolliffe, Bart.,

“ Home Office, Whitehall.”

On the 2nd April the following was received:—

“ Whitehall,

“ 2d April, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I have laid your letter of the 31st ult. before Mr. Secretary Walpole, and I have to inform you that it would have been more regular for the Committee of Governors of Bethlem Hospital

to have obtained the permission of the Secretary of State before printing the Evidence annexed to the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on that Hospital. But as the printing of the Evidence has taken place, Mr. Walpole will not object to its being transmitted, in the strictest confidence, to the Members of the Committee.

“ I am to desire that the MSS. Evidence may be returned to this Office.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ H. WADDINGTON.”

“ Mr. B. Welton,

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ Bridge Street,

“ Blackfriars.”

On the 5th April copies of the Report and Evidence were sent to the acting members of the Committee with the following.—

(Copy.)

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ 5th April, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed to forward to you the accompanying Copy of a Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on Bethlem Hospital to the Secretary of State, together with the Evidence on which such Report is stated to have been founded. This Report has been forwarded to the Governors by the Secretary of State as a ‘ Confidential Communication,’ but he ‘ does not object to its being transmitted, in the strictest confidence, to the Members of the Committee.’

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ B. WELTON.”

On the 8th April the following was received:—

“ (*Immediate.*)

“ Whitehall,
“ 8th April, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed by Mr. Secretary Walpole to request that you will inform him why the MSS. Evidence, annexed to the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on Bethlem Hospital, has not been returned to this office, agreeably to the directions contained in Mr. Waddington’s Letter of the 2nd instant.

“ I am further to request that the MSS. Evidence may be returned *forthwith*, and that another Copy of the printed Evidence may be sent at the same time.

“ I am, Sir,
“ Your obedient Servant,
“ WM. G. H. JOLLIFFE.”

“ Mr. B. Welton,
“ Bridewell Hospital,
“ Bridge Street,
“ Blackfriars.”

The reply to which was:—

“ Bridewell Hospital,
“ 12th April, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ In reply to your Letter of the 8th instant, I beg to acquaint you that the MSS. Evidence annexed to the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Secretary of State shall be forwarded to the Home Office on Wednesday next, the 14th instant, which, on account of the Holidays, is the earliest period it can be obtained from the Printers, who have it to clean and put into a proper condition.

“I beg to add, that on the receipt of Mr. Waddington’s Letter of the 2nd instant, I received directions from the Treasurer of the Hospital to return immediately the MSS. in question, but could not do so in consequence of the state it was then in.

“I forward, herewith, another Copy of the Report and Evidence, as requested in your letter of the 8th instant.

“ I have the honor to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ B. WELTON,

“ Clerk.”

“ Sir Wm. J. H. Jolliffe, Bart.,

“ Home Office.”

On the 14th April, 1852, the manuscript copy of the Evidence was returned with the following:—

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ 14th April, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ In pursuance of the request contained in your Letter of the 2nd instant, I am directed by the Treasurer of Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals, to return to you herewith the Evidence which accompanied the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Secretary of State on Bethlem Hospital.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ B. WELTON,

“ Clerk.”

“ H. Waddington, Esq.,

“ Under Secretary of State,

“ Home Office,

“ Whitehall.”

On the 26th April the Committee of Governors determined on the appointment of a Resident Physician of eminence to be the Chief Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, in accordance with a recommendation to that effect from the General Committee, and on the 12th July such an appointment was made in the election of Dr. Hood. Page 111.

On the 28th May the following was received, containing further examinations, which are appended.

“ (*Confidential.*)

“ Whitehall,

“ 28th May, 1852.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I am directed by Mr. Secretary Walpole to transmit to you, with reference to my Letter of the 21st February last, the enclosed Copies of the Examinations, taken upon oath, of Miss A. M., and her sister Miss F. M., relative to the treatment of the former as a patient in Bethlem Hospital.

“ I am at the same time to request that you will furnish Mr. Walpole with your observations on the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, as soon as you have completed your investigation into the subject.

“ I have the honor to be,

“ Gentlemen,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ The Governors

“ H. WADDINGTON.”

“ Of Bethlem Hospital.”

The receipt of these was immediately acknowledged, and on the 9th June the General Committee directed the following reply to be sent:—

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ 9th June, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed to inform you that your Letter of the 28th ult., addressed to the Governors of Bethlem Hospital, with enclosed Copies of the Examinations of Miss A. M., and her sister Miss F. M., taken on oath, on the 30th July, 1851, were laid before the General Committee of Governors on the 7th instant; and I am instructed to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Secretary

Walpole, that the President, Treasurer, and the General Committee have considered, that in consequence of the number of patients having greatly increased since the appointment of the present Physicians, and the introduction of the improved and daily improving treatment of Lunatics, a degree of constant supervision, direct control, and undivided responsibility is required, which it is not in the power of non-resident Physicians to secure; and the Court of Governors concurring unanimously in this opinion, which coincides with the chief recommendation of the Commissioners in Lunacy, have determined on the appointment of a Resident Physician, and measures are now in progress for the election of such an officer at a very early date. The Governors have decided that his qualifications, duties, and salary shall be as shown in the accompanying printed paper. The appointment of this officer will necessarily affect the position and duties of other officers, and render it indispensable that some of the Rules of the Hospital should be revised, but on the fullest consideration, the Committee are of opinion, that the course likely to be most beneficial to the Institution, and best calculated to increase its usefulness, will be to defer the completion of this revision, and the further consideration of the Report referred to in your Letter, until after the appointment of the Resident Physician, as he will be responsible for the medical and general treatment of the patients in the Hospital, and the Governors will have the benefit of his experience and advice.

“ I am further directed to add, that when this appointment has been made, and the various alterations consequent on it have been completed, the particulars of the whole will be forwarded to Mr. Secretary Walpole, and it is trusted will meet with his entire approbation.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ H. Waddington, Esq.,

“ Under Secretary of State,

“ Home Office,

“ Whitehall.”

“ B. WELTON,

“ Clerk.”

On the 11th June the following was received:—

“ Whitehall,

“ 11th June, 1852.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I have laid Mr. Welton’s letter of the 9th instant, and its enclosure, before Mr. Secretary Walpole; and I am to request that your Report on the matters referred to in the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, which has been in your possession since the 21st February, may be transmitted to Mr. Walpole as soon as it is complete. He is very desirous of receiving it without further delay.

“ I am,

“ Gentlemen,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ H. WADDINGTON.”

“ The Governors

“ of Bethlem Hospital.”

To which the reply was:—

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ 15th June, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and to acquaint you that the Committee of Governors for conducting the affairs of the Royal Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem will transmit to Mr. Secretary Walpole the result of their consideration of the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on Bethlem Hospital with as little delay as possible.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ B. WELTON,

“ Clerk.”

“ H. Waddington, Esq.,

“ Under Secretary of State,

“ Home Office,

“ Whitehall.”

On the 23rd June, 1852, the Committee deemed it right to make to the Secretary of State the application contained in the following letter:—

“ Bridewell Hospital,
“ 23rd June, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I am directed by the Committee of Governors for conducting the affairs of the Royal Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem, to apply for the permission of Mr. Secretary Walpole to furnish the Medical and other Officers of Bethlem Hospital with Copies of the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to Sir George Grey, on the said Hospital, to enable the Medical and other Officers to prepare answers, in writing, to statements made in that Report.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

H. Waddington, Esq.,
“ Under Secretary of State,
“ Home Office,
“ Whitehall.”

“ B. WELTON,
“ Clerk.”

The reply was:—

“ Whitehall,
“ 26th June, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I have laid your letter of the 23rd instant before Mr. Secretary Walpole ; and I am to convey to you his authority to furnish to the Medical and other Officers of Bethlem Hospital, Copies of the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on that Hospital, upon condition that such Copies are not made use of for any purpose excepting that of preparing answers by the Officers to Statements made in the Report.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Mr. B. Welton,
“ Clerk to the Governors of
“ Bethlem Hospital,
“ Bridewell Hospital.”

“ Your obedient Servant,
“ H. WADDINGTON.”

The following letters and copies of letters have been received from Sir Alexander Morison, one of the Physicians of the Hospitals :—

“To the President, Treasurer, and Governors of Bethlem
“Hospital, &c.

“A printed paper, purporting to be a Report from Commissioners in Lunacy to the Home Secretary of State, and signed ‘Shaftesbury,’ has been put into my hands.

“In it I find assertions respecting my conduct as one of your physicians, calculated to injure me in your estimation, and in that of the public.

“As these assertions are unfounded, I beg respectfully to have a strict enquiry made into the manner in which I have performed the duties of Physician to your noble Institution during the seventeen years I have had the honour to occupy the situation, in order to refute the misrepresentations respecting myself contained in the said Report.

“I have the honour to be,

“Gentlemen,

“Your very obedient Servant,

“ALEX. MORISON.”

“25th February, 1852.”

“To the Commissioners in Lunacy.

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“I have seen a printed paper, stated to be a Report from the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Home Secretary of State respecting Bethlem Hospital; this Report, although it is entitled ‘Confidential,’ may obtain extensive circulation.

“In it I find the following statements:—

“Page 3.—‘According to the evidence of the resident apothecary, ‘by far the greater portion of the medical treatment of the ‘patients appears in practice to devolve upon him, and thus ‘his own peculiar duties are neglected.’

“ Page 7.—‘ In point of fact, nearly the whole of the treatment
 ‘ (medical, as well as moral, and much of the business of
 ‘ general supervision are at present thrown upon Dr. Wood,
 ‘ who, as he candidly admits, has not been equal to the
 ‘ burden) and the services of the visiting physicians (which
 ‘ apparently are almost entirely confined to examining the
 ‘ patients before admission and discharge, and to occasionally
 ‘ prescribing for them in cases of severe illness) occupy but a
 ‘ small portion of their time, and have not been always regu-
 ‘ larly or assiduously performed; the result has been that the
 ‘ care of the patients is left far too much to the uncontrolled
 ‘ direction of the attendants.’

“ Not having seen the evidence on which you have founded your Report, of course I do not know what Dr. Wood has said; but if he has made a statement according to this Report, he has stated what is untrue; for, that I have diligently and efficiently discharged my duty from the first day of my appointment to the present time, a period of nearly seventeen years, and that Dr. Wood has not done my duty upon any occasion, ample evidence is ready to be produced.

“ I feel, therefore, I have some reason to complain that such opinions should be circulated by the Commissioners upon statements made behind my back, and of which I have known nothing; and have had no opportunity of correcting and showing their falsehood.

“ This Report is calculated to injure me in the opinion of the Governors of the Hospital, and of the public generally; allow me, then, to express my regret that you should have made such Report without affording me an opportunity of correcting it.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ Your very obedient Servant,

“ ALEX. MORISON.”

“ Bethlem Hospital,

“ 23rd March, 1852.”

Reply—"24th March, 1852.

"Offices of Commissioners in Lunacy,

"19, New Street,

"Spring Gardens.

"Sir,

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, objecting to certain statements and observations contained in the Report recently made by the Commissioners in Lunacy to Secretary Sir George Grey, relative to Bethlem Hospital, and to say that I will lay the same before this Board at their meeting to-morrow. In the meantime, I think it right to state that the evidence upon which the Report was founded was sent with the Report to the Home Office, and, by direction of Sir George Grey, transmitted to the President and Governors of the Hospital.

"As a matter of convenience, the *Report*, instead of being copied in manuscript, was privately printed at the Government press, and in that form sent, marked "Confidential," to Bethlem Hospital.

"It was accompanied, as I have since been informed, by the copy of the short-hand writer's notes of the evidence.

"I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

"Signed,

"R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

"Secretary.

"Sir A. Morison, M.D."

The following letter from Dr. Monro, the other Physician of the Hospital, addressed to the Treasurer, with the Treasurer's reply, was laid before the General Committee of the Governors on the 7th May, 1852 :—

"Dear Mr. Johnson,

"I hear many rumours and I receive no official intimation. I should, therefore, feel obliged to you, if you will inform me as to my true position, that I may neither neglect the interests of the Hospital, nor compromise my own honour and dignity.

"The approach of a course of lectures makes it the more necessary to see my way clearly before me.

“ Having received no trial or animadversion from the Committee or from any of the Governors in the way of complaint, and having undergone no examination whatever at their hands upon any point under consideration, I am altogether in the dark, and request some counsel and information from yourself.

“ As the matter stands at present, I must conclude that no complaint or ground of enquiry exists ; for I had always imagined where any sort of enquiry is necessary, that the party would be examined against whom it might be alleged.

“ Understanding that I was re-elected yesterday—a mark of the continued confidence of the Governors—I shall continue to do my duties as heretofore.

“ You are quite at liberty to make any use of this note you may desire, and I am *quite willing* it should be respectfully laid before any party whom it may concern.

“ I remain, dear Sir,

“ Most truly yours,

“ ED. THOS. MONRO.

“ 37, Harley Street,

“ Cavendish Square.

“ 27th April, 1852.”

“ J. E. Johnson, Esq.,

“ Treasurer.”

“ Bridewell Hospital, April 28th, 1852.

“ My dear Sir,

“ I have received your letter of yesterday, and feel obliged for the liberty you give me respecting it. I have always regarded our Resident Medical Staff at Bethlem as insufficient, and am happy to find that your opinion on this point coincides with my own.

“ It is only necessary to advert to the fact, that the Hospital is left for several hours, almost daily, without medical superintendence to satisfy any one that additional medical assistance is required; at the same time I have hitherto been unwilling to recommend the appoint-

ment of a second resident Medical Officer, until some vacancy having arisen, the whole subject could be reconsidered, and placed on a more satisfactory footing. Recent events have, however, rendered it imprudent to delay any longer the re-arrangement of the Medical Staff. The Governors have, therefore, determined on the immediate appointment of a Resident Physician, to be the chief of the Medical Department; and as this appointment will probably affect to a considerable extent the duties of the other Medical Officers, the Governors re-appointed them on Monday last, subject to such changes in their duties, salaries, &c., as may hereafter be deemed advisable.

“I am, my dear Sir,

“Yours, very sincerely,

“Dr. Monro.”

“J. E. JOHNSON.”

and on the same day (the 7th May, 1852), another letter from the Physicians and Apothecary jointly was read as follows:—

“To the President, Treasurer, and Committee of the Royal Hospitals
“of Bridewell and Bethlehem.

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“We have heard that a Special Meeting of the Committee is to be held at Bridewell, on Monday next, to consider and report what should be the duties, salary, and emoluments of the Resident Physician of Bethlehem Hospital,

“*and upon no other business.*

“And it is further rumoured, that a Special General Court is to meet on the following Monday, to confirm the Resolutions of this Committee.

“As no other business than that above referred to is to be considered, we have no other means of obtaining a hearing than by addressing the individual members of the Committee; and the urgency with which important changes in the Medical Staff of the Hospital are to be carried out, without our being informed of any ground of complaint against the present officers, seems to justify this course.

If the changes which the Governors have resolved to make have been determined on in consequence of a Report which has been made to the Secretary of State by the Commissioners in Lunacy, we most respectfully claim the right to be informed what the report is, and the evidence upon which it is founded.

“ We feel that we can confidently challenge comparison between the condition of Bethlehem Hospital and that of any similar Institution; and those Governors who have attended the Sub-committee and visited the wards have uniformly expressed their opinion of its good order, and the satisfactory state of the Patients generally, in a book under their own hands.

“ The cures during the last seven years have not only equalled, but exceeded, those of any corresponding period since the Hospital was founded; mechanical restraint has been gradually diminished, and at last altogether discontinued. Upon these grounds we earnestly appeal to the Committee whether changes, which must necessarily degrade us all, and, in our persons, dishonour our profession, should be thus hastily made, without giving us the opportunity of defending ourselves against any charges which may have been made against us.

“ We have the honour to be,

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ Your faithful servants,

“ ED. THOS. MONRO, M.D.

“ ALEX. MORISON, M.D.

“ WM. WOOD, M.D.”

“ Bethlehem Hospital,

“ 30th April, 1852.”

To these several letters the following is the reply of the Committee :—

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ 7th May, 1852.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I beg to inform you that your letters of the 27th and 30th of April last, and the 3rd May instant, with an enclosure addressed to the President, Treasurer, and Committee of Bethlem Hos-

pital, were laid before them and read at their meeting this day; and I am directed to acquaint you in reply, that the Committee are very desirous of removing (so far as lies in their power) any impression on your minds that the proceedings which they have taken with reference to the appointment of a Resident Physician are the result of an acquiescence on their part with the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

“ The appointment of a Resident Physician and Medical Superintendent, which was unanimously agreed to by the Committee, and unanimously confirmed by the last Court, had long been felt by the President and Treasurer, and many Governors, who have devoted much attention to the administration of Bethlem Hospital, and who possessed considerable experience in the direction of similar Establishments, to be a necessary and desirable alteration in the system pursued at Bethlem Hospital, where, in consequence of the number of Patients having doubled since the appointment of the present Physicians, the introduction of employments on an extended scale, the classification of the Patients under the charge of numerous subordinate officers, and the increased duties involved in the improved and daily improving treatment of lunatics, a degree of constant supervision at all hours, direct control, and undivided responsibility was imperatively demanded, which was not in the power of any non-resident Physician under the present system to secure.

“ It is both the duty and the desire of the Governors to afford any officer who may feel himself aggrieved the fullest opportunity of explanation and defence, and had the Report and Evidence complained of by the Physicians been a document under the control of the Committee, they would most readily furnish them with copies, but the Physicians are aware that the investigation originated with the Commissioners in Lunacy, and that by the express and positive direction of the present Secretary of State the evidence must be confined in the strictest confidence to the Members of the Committee.

“ As the Secretary of State is alone empowered to furnish the Physicians with copies of the Report and Evidence, the Committee

can only refer them to that authority for compliance with their request ; should they, however, wish to submit any statement on the subject, the Committee will willingly receive it, and give it their best consideration.

“ The Physicians will thus understand, that the Committee have not entered upon the consideration of the matters which may be in that Report, and that therefore no opinion has been expressed by them on the several conclusions at which the Commissioners in Lunacy may have arrived; and although it is true that the present medical staff is stated to be insufficient in resident officers for the due management of the Hospital, that is a defect in the system (as before stated) which they have long intended to remedy when an opportunity occurred.

“ I am, Gentlemen,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ Dr. Monro,

“ B. WELTON.”

“ Sir Alexander Morison, M.D.”

Page 101. Immediately afterwards the letter in the Appendix, was received from Sir Alexander Morison, which was referred by the Court to the Committee to consider, and to take such steps therein as they may see fit. On the 14th June the Committee considered this letter, but gave no direction respecting it, feeling that all the reply that could be given was contained in their letter of the 7th May, above given.

On the 26th January the Matron resigned her appointment, and on the 20th September her successor was appointed; the Governors, being unwilling to proceed to this election until they had appointed a Resident Physician, and were in a position to be guided by his advice in determining her new duties.

On the same day a Resident Apothecary was elected in the place of Dr. Wood, who had resigned his appointment on the 13th July.

Page 115. The salaries and duties of the Resident Physician, the Apothecary, and the Matron, as agreed on by the Governors, are appended.

The remarks of Dr. Monro and Sir Alexander Morison, the Physicians, and of Mrs. Hunter, the Matron, on the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, are also appended. Page 47.

No Report has been received from the Apothecary, but he has written as follows :—

“ Bethlem Hospital,
“ 9th July.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Commissioners’ Report and Evidence, which I have been prevented answering sooner in consequence of having to await the reply of the Commissioners to my application for a further inquiry, in which I might have an opportunity of defending myself against charges made by persons utterly unworthy of credit. Although the character of the witness is, in some of these instances, stamped upon the evidence, I shall not be content with pointing out its intrinsic worthlessness, but proceed with the least possible delay to reply to every part of the Report and Evidence which appears to reflect upon me.

“ I should feel much obliged if you would inform me when the answer must be completed.

“ I remain,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Yours faithfully,

“ W. WOOD.”

“ B. Welton, Esq.”

“ Kensington House.

“ 6th October.

“ My Dear Sir,

“ I have this day been shown other newspapers in which there are articles on the subject of Bethlem Hospital, and extract from the Commissioners’ Report, which are calculated very seriously to injure my reputation ; and more than ever require a very particular and circumstantial answer. Under these circumstances, I think,

I ought not to be satisfied with such imperfect observations, as I should be obliged to furnish to the Governors, in time for them to make their reply. My time has been, and is still so much occupied, that I see no prospect of being ready for the meeting of the Committee at which this subject is to be considered, and I think it will be better, therefore, that they should not wait for my remarks, but take what steps they think proper and leave me to send my answer; which must, under existing circumstances, be made public when I have had time to prepare it with that consideration which it requires. So long as the Report was kept private I had only to meet it as reflecting upon the Institution with which I was connected, but now that it has become public, and my professional reputation is endangered, it is a much more personal matter. As I understood from you that it was probable the Committee would proceed to the consideration of the subject within the next fortnight, I think it right to say, that I cannot possibly complete my observations within that time, and therefore beg that they will leave me at liberty to make my answer independently of their Report. Believe me always

“ My dear Sir,

“ Yours very truly,

“ W. WOOD.”

“ B. Welton, Esq.”

Page 104. A Copy of a correspondence between the Treasurer and the Commissioners in Lunacy will also be found in the Appendix.

APPENDIX B.

Remarks on the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, by the Physicians and Matron.

1. REMARKS BY DR. MONRO.

“To the Governors of Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ Being requested to make any observations I may think proper on the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy respecting Bethlem, and the Evidence which accompanies it, I would first observe, that it appears to me that the leading fallacy of the whole matter, so far as the Physicians are concerned, is an impression that they have been remiss in the execution of duties, which, in fact, they never undertook, and which belong rather to some medical officer of a very different grade.

“ The recognized duty of the physicians of Bethlem hitherto, has been to pay certain periodical visits (four times each in the course of the week), and to exercise a large and superintending control over the medical treatment and general management of the Hospital, and they by no means ever contemplated the regulation of details which must attach to subaltern officers; and which, involving questions of management and practice at all hours of the day and night, could never by possibility come under their cognizance; indeed such points as these I now refer to, never have constituted any part of a physician's duty, who, as a sort of general officer, has taken a large view of all the leading points of the case, and leaves the details and all the minutiae to the regulation of officers working under him. Such an attention to minute details has been manifestly out of the question and wholly impracticable: each physician having, on an average, 200 patients under his charge, if

he devoted even three minutes to each, must have employed ten hours at each visit. This supposition is monstrous, and could never have been contemplated or expected. The physicians hitherto have been selected from those in considerable practice, and of tried experience and repute. Such practitioners can never have it in their power to devote any portion of time approaching to ten hours to any one purpose of this nature—neither do they pretend to do one quarter as much as this in any hospital in London. Your own letter, addressed to us on 7th May last, admits the impossibility of such an undertaking when you state ‘that the number of patients having doubled since the appointment of the present physicians, the introduction of employments on an extended scale, the classification of the patients under the charge of numerous subordinate officers, and the increased duties involved in the improved and daily improving treatment of lunatics, a degree of supervision at all times, direct control, and undivided responsibility, was imperatively demanded, which it was not in the power of any non-resident physician under the present system to secure.’

“The modern idea appears to incline to that hardworking attention to minute particulars which has never hitherto characterized the mental physician exercising a high profession in a liberal manner; and if the duties of the future medical officer are to be so minute and so extensive, and so laborious, he must, indeed, be of a very different grade and calibre from all physicians who have heretofore exercised this high calling.

“The condition of Bethlem Hospital has been, in fact, a subject of encomium for years, as is incontrovertibly verified by the uninterrupted succession of approbation contained in the written observations of the Governors and visitors from every quarter of the globe for very many years. It is difficult to find any variation. These books alone proclaim the impression and opinions of half the world, and of many of the Governors themselves; and are a clear justification of the past. For myself, after thirty-six years unremitting attendance, I may be permitted to speak of the Institution and its inmates with the deepest regard. Nobody can pretend to entertain

the same amount of interest—preceded as I have been by several of my immediate ancestors through a period altogether of one hundred and twenty-five years—I look at Bethlem Hospital with peculiar interest, and will yield to no man breathing in the amount of my attachment.

“In the question before us, I would also observe, that the evidence of persons but recently discharged as recovered from the Hospital, is taken as equally valid with those of persons of unimpeachable sanity. Some of these were very illiterate, and of the humblest grade in society, and whose recollection of the subject matter of their evidence must be leavened and perverted by their unsound state when their impressions were formed. One of these witnesses does not at all bear out the complaints and assertions of her own mother.

“This patient, Mary Elizabeth W., after leaving the Hospital, and having been discharged well scarcely four weeks, in the presence of the Commissioners, and in the absence of the nurses and matron, who in the course of duty is always present when patients are discharged by the Bethlem Committee, states in opposition to her mother’s complaints, that she was pretty comfortable in the Hospital, and that she did not recollect a supposed injury to her finger, or the supposed violence of the nurses, or that she herself was black and blue, or that the nurses used any coarse language.

“Her evidence appears to have been a complete failure, though she was herself the party supposed to be aggrieved, and she repeatedly expressed her ignorance of imagined ill-usage.

“Some strong observation is thrown out, and unless the physicians can absolutely verify it, or absolutely deny it, an appearance of inattention or neglect attaches to them.

“There is nothing which might not be suggested by such evidence: and the Physicians disclaiming all knowledge of such matters, as well they might, are immediately considered inattentive, or inefficient. For instance, it might be suggested,—Did you not know that a certain patient was fed by the keepers with brimstone and

treacle?—I never saw anything of the kind. But do you not, in your capacity as Physician, know that such was the case?—Indeed I do not. Why, here, gentlemen, is a Medical Officer of thirty-six years standing, who does not know whether it be true that a certain patient lived on brimstone and treacle!

“I honestly believe, that any institution subjected to the same scrutiny, would be found equally liable to the same animadversion,—that praise or blame are often, so to speak, matters of accident, and depend on some fortuitous event; and I as honestly believe, that in the main, there are as few defects in the conduct of Bethlem Hospital, as in that of any similar institution; and that the cures are very nearly as numerous.

“Among all the witnesses, there are none of any consideration (Mr. Laurie excepted,) who pass any sort of observation on my mode of conducting my professional visits,—he has never personally witnessed that mode, and being engaged in his own profession, can by no means appreciate the propriety of those measures which, from long experience, I had found best.—Every man in his own craft.

“The habit adopted some years since of visiting when the patients were at dinner, gave me a most suitable opportunity, which enabled me quietly to observe the condition of each, and which ensured an inspection of every individual case. The object was not always to ascertain delusions already familiar. At other times, the patients are in every conceivable direction, and engaged in miscellaneous pursuits. Bethlem does not resemble sick hospitals where every patient is in bed, or at all events in their bed-rooms, and therefore the same rules will not apply.

“The Christmas Reports, though much criticised by Mr. Laurie, are, of late years, prepared with much pains, and contain all necessary information,—and as to their length, I can only say, that a very influential Governor has suggested, that it is very desirable they should be as short as possible; I have, therefore, just reason to complain of Mr. Laurie’s evidence. The statements respecting the patient H——, are perfectly new to me, and indeed could never, in my sphere of duty, fall within my cognizance at all.

“If truly stated, which it is very difficult to believe, coming as it does from discarded servants who had misdemeaned themselves, and who never mentioned the circumstance at the time, they are most reprehensible ; but unless a supervisor possess something like ubiquity, it will be very difficult to prevent the coarse, and heartless treatment of some attendants.

“The evidence of Eleanor W.*, respecting the application of a mop, as a part of a process of washing a patient, does not appear to be borne out by any other witness of any denomination. We have, therefore, great reason to complain of the prominence given to this supposed treatment in the Report. If there were any truth in this statement, I should be among the foremost to express my abhorrence of any such system.

“I regret that the evidence of Miss A. M. and Miss F. M. does not appear: if it refers to the M.*’s, I must believe, from the friendly intercourse I held with the sane sister, and from her letter of gratitude, that all she said would be of the same character,—anything else must involve inconsistency on her part.

“What is really wanted, more than anything else, is the constant presence in the wards, especially the basements, of thoroughly trustworthy and respectable supervising inspectors, analogous to those among the police; who, being of a superior grade to the ordinary attendants, would exercise a control over them; and not being exposed to the petty excitement to which their subordinates are subject while dressing, washing, or feeding their patients, would calmly direct, and sedulously observe all their procedure.

“I must repeat, that according to the tenour of the system hitherto adopted, it has been absolutely impossible that the Physicians should be cognizant of anything which may take place in their absence. Their prescribed duties were quite of another character, and their standing in society did not admit of so large an apportionment of time as seems to have been contemplated by some. I am sure it must be evident to every Governor who care-

* In the original these names are stated in full.

fully considers the whole case, that the matters complained of are out of their jurisdiction.

“After so very long a service, the sudden transition to new modes, involving (to say the least) many modifications of my own duties, is, of course, very painful and wholly unexpected.

“The regulation and adjustment of these conflicting arrangements I must leave to the kind discretion and consideration of the Governors, who, from a sense of equity and fairness, must perceive that one part of their present adjudication will be to protect at such a moment the interests, and long-standing claims, the reasonable advantages, and the professional honour of their present Physicians.

“Let me say, in conclusion, that whatever course the Governors may think it right to adopt in other matters, it is quite clear that Officers, who have so long enjoyed the countenance and approbation of the Governors, must look to them for the defence and vindication of their professional integrity, which can alone be satisfactorily shown by some express minute to this effect.

“I have the honor to remain,

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“Your very faithful Servant,

“ED. THOS. MONRO, M.D.

“87, Harley Street,

“To the President,

“Cavendish Square,

“Treasurer, and Governors of

“8th July, 1852.”

“Bethlem Hospital.”

“P.S.—As regards the evidence respecting A. M. just sent to me, I must state that I am very much shocked at its contents, if true.

“I can only hope that the patient had a morbidly sensitive view of what really occurred; but if anything approaching this was the case, I should be among the first to see the necessity of thorough reform and correction of the past in all these details.

“At the same time I repeat, that this department was clearly as distinct from my sphere as that of the architect or the cook.

“EDWARD THOMAS MONRO.

“14th July, 1852.”

“ 26, Cavendish Square,
“ 15th July, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ I have received your letter of yesterday enclosing Copy of Examinations received from the Secretary of State respecting Miss A. M., and I have to report that such patient was under the care of Dr. Monro and Dr. Wood, and she was never to my recollection brought to my notice.

“ I am,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ B. Welton, Esq.,
“ Bridewell Hospital.”

“ ALEXR. MORISON.”

2.—REMARKS BY SIR ALEXANDER MORISON, M.D.

“ 26, Cavendish Square,
“ 17th July, 1852.

“ Sir,

“ In compliance with the request communicated to me in your letter of 28th June, I beg that you will lay before the Committee authorised to transmit the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Secretary of State on Bethlem Hospital, and the Evidence on which the same is founded, the following Observations thereon, which I think right to preface by stating the manner in which my *weekly* duties have been performed.

“ I commence by Friday.

“ On this day I receive patients alternately with Dr. Monro. I take a full copy in writing of the case of each patient who is placed under my care, after a careful examination. I am also present on the alternate Friday, when Dr. Monro admits his patients.

“ On the same day I attend the weekly meeting of the Sub-Committee, and report such patients as have been admitted, or are to be discharged; after this meeting I visit the wards, and I direct my attention particularly to the patients recently admitted, in order to prescribe for them immediately, if required, so that no time may be lost.

“ If I think it necessary to see them on the following day (Saturday), I call at the Hospital.

“ On Sunday I visit every patient, and I insert in the Chaplain’s Book the names of those patients who, I think, may derive benefit by attendance in the Chapel, or I withdraw from the list those who require it: and I have not unfrequently attended Divine Service in the Chapel to observe the demeanour of the patients, and the effect of the Service upon them.

“ On Monday I visit the patients in general. On the first and third Monday of each month, the visiting days of the friends of patients, I converse with those friends, observe the manner in which they are received, sometimes learn circumstances respecting the patients of which I may not have been previously informed, and also their opinion of the patients’ progress towards recovery.

“ I ought to mention, that I also frequently converse with my patients themselves without the immediate presence of the attendants.

“ On Tuesday I occasionally visit.

“ On Wednesday I always attend, and occasionally on Thursday, in order to determine, what otherwise I do on Friday morning, the patients I propose to recommend to the Sub-Committee to be discharged as recovered—uncured—for leave of absence on trial—or for longer residence in the Hospital as offering some prospect of recovery.

“ I write the names of all such patients myself, as well as those inserted in the book of convalescent patients, and in the Chaplain’s Book, in which I make weekly entries. I also examine the Diet Book, frequently make entries therein, and once a week give my sanction to the same.

“ I enter my prescriptions in the Prescription Book, and I very frequently give the medicines I think required on the spot, in the form of pills or powders already prepared, and in urgent cases I have often made up draughts or mixtures myself.

“ I also frequently attend patients at the House of Occupations—and occasionally at Bridewell.

“ Ever since my election, in April, 1835, I have given Lectures upon Insanity; and have been accompanied by my pupils in my visits

to the Hospital long before the attention of the Governors was drawn to the subject; and my recommendation, of nearly thirty years' standing (viz., in 1823), that practical knowledge of mental diseases should be acquired by every medical student is now being acted upon—the East India Company requiring it in all their medical officers.—See Appendix, No. 1.

“ I also carefully consider all the cases under my charge for the purpose of classifying them in the Case Book; and I enter the same for the benefit of the pupils. I sign all the Discharges in that book, and I assist in making an Annual Report. It was my wish to make a separate Report of the patients under my own immediate care, being more fully acquainted with them, and in 1838, with this view, I presented a detailed Report to the Governors.

“ In 1841 I also presented to them a Report of the result of the preceding five years, which I presume contains much practical information.—See Appendix, No. 2.

“ This was printed at my own expense, and sent to the Governors and others.

“ I merely allude to this circumstance, as the Reports of the Physicians are referred to by one of the witnesses.

“ I may also mention that Mr. Martin, in his Report of the Commissioners of Enquiry concerning Charities in 1838, states—

“ ‘ The duration of Dr. Morison's visits is from one to four hours or upwards. The curable, incurable, and criminals receive an equal share of attention, depending on the circumstances of each individual case; the patients are visited by him individually, every one of them being considered under his own peculiar care, without reference to any other officer of the establishment.’

“ Since that period my attendance has very considerably increased.

“ I shall now proceed to notice and to refute some of the erroneous statements of the Commissioners in Lunacy, in order to vindicate myself as one of the Visiting or Joint Physicians of Bethlem Hospital.

“ In page 5 of their Report it is stated—

“ ‘The duration of the visits of the physicians is evidently of no long duration.’

“ This assertion, as regards myself, is by no means borne out by the evidence, for

“ In page 43, No. 103, the Treasurer states—

“ ‘The other gentleman (Sir Alex. Morison) is there about two hours and a half.’

“ In page 114, No. 1,125, Sir A. Morison states—

“ ‘From one to seven hours, or from two to three hours.’

“ In page 130, No. 1,347, P. N. Laurie, Esq., states—

“ ‘Sir Alex. Morison devotes a considerable portion of his time.’

“ In page 193, No. 21,42, Mr. Nicholls states—

“ ‘I have known that Sir A. Morison has stopped a night or two at the Hospital during the Apothecaries’ absence.’

“ In page 200, No. 2,239, Mr. Nicholls states—

“ ‘I have known him occasionally, on an emergency, at my request, to sleep at the Hospital, and, perhaps, at Dr. Wood’s too; but I on one or two occasions asked him myself, that no difficulty should occur, and Sir Alexander Morison has done so very kindly.’

“ In page 230, No. 2,739, William Marson states—

“ ‘Sir Alex. Morison comes every Sunday.’

“ No. 2,740—

“ ‘Sir Alex. Morison is sometimes there for two hours, and sometimes longer.’

“ In page 253, No. 3,061, Dr. Wood states—

“ ‘Sir Alex. Morison is very active—he is there (now that Dr. Monro is unwell) very frequently.’

“ In page 279, No. 3,383, Mr. David Kidd states—

“ ‘Sir Alexander Morison always comes on his days, and frequently more.’

“ ‘Sir A. Morison mostly goes up stairs, and sees his patients.’

“ No. 3,384—

“ ‘Sir A. Morison sometimes sees and examines other patients besides his own.’

“ No. 3,385—

“ ‘ When we call Sir Alexander Morison’s attention to any other patients that are ill, he will attend to them directly.’ ”

“ In page 6 of the Report—

“ ‘ It does not appear that they (the visiting Physicians) prescribe for all their patients, or that they visit all parts of the hospital, or that they sign such Case Books as are required to be kept.’ ”

“ In page 7—

“ ‘ According to the evidence of the Resident Apothecary, by far the greater portion of the medical treatment appears in practice to devolve upon him.’ ”

“ In page 15—

“ ‘ And in point of fact, nearly the whole of the treatment (medical as well as moral), and much of the business of general supervision, are at present thrown upon him; and the services of the Visiting Physicians (which, apparently, are almost entirely confined to examining the patients before admission and discharge, and to occasionally prescribing for them in severe illness,) occupy a small portion of their time, and have not always been regularly or assiduously rendered.’ ”

“ In page 33—

“ ‘ That the duties of the Visiting Physicians are very imperfectly performed—that their visits to the Hospital are of too formal and superficial a character—that they never inspect the Hospital or visit their patients at night, and that their treatment of their respective patients is in a great measure left to the Resident Apothecary.’ ”

“ All this (with the exception of not visiting at night) I deny.

“ As already mentioned in the statement of my weekly duties, I see and prescribe for, and recommend for occupation all my patients; and I not only prescribe for them, but actually administer many medicines to them, and occasionally to those of Dr. Monro.

“ The Apothecary, Dr. Wood, never did my duty for me. When I have required to be absent for a short period of time from the Hospi-

tal, I have always secured the promise of Dr. Monro to attend for me, except when circumstances have called both him and myself away, which has occurred, and then Mr. Lawrence, at my request, kindly officiated for me ; so careful have I been to avoid leaving my patients entirely to the charge of Dr. Wood.

“As I have already stated, I write in my private Case Book the history of every patient, in order to consider their cases at my leisure at home.

“I also examine and occasionally extract from the Case Books kept by Dr. Wood, in which I have expressed to him my opinion that I would make a weekly entry in every case, although such entry might amount to merely ‘no change,’ or ‘the same.’

“I also make it a rule to examine the Prescription Book and the Diet Book, to ascertain whether or no I approve of any addition or change affecting my patients that may have been made by the Apothecary in my absence.

“As to visiting patients in the night time, that was never expected of me, although, had occasion required, I was quite ready to do so : and in another large Institution where I am required occasionally to sleep, I have visited the wards at all hours of the night.

“By the Regulations agreed to in May, 1843, I am required to attend four times in each week. On examining the Book of Attendance I find, that during the nine years since that time I have exceeded the number required by one hundred and thirty-five attendances, besides those days on which Dr. Monro and Mr. Lawrence have attended for me.

“In page 33—

“‘That Miss H. H. was neglected by the medical and other officers of the hospital.’

“This, in as far as I am implicated, I deny. She was admitted on the 4th April, 1851.

“Sick diet was prescribed for her, and such medicines as her symptoms indicated.

“The basement portion of the hospital is allotted for patients who are mischievous, are of dirty or indecent habits, or very noisy,

and, consequently, would annoy patients of a different description ; being one of these (as stated in her case by Mr. Taylor) she was, according to custom, placed there.

“ I visited her on the 6th, 7th, and 9th, and on the 16th of April, and Dr. Munro on the 10th, 12th, and 15th ; and so far as the services of the Visiting Physicians were required she received them.

“ A great deal of pertinacity was exercised by the Chairman of the Commissioners, in his examination, as to the exact time of my being aware of H. H. being a dirty patient ; and two queries in writing, were ordered to be given to me. I submit that it would have been common justice in the Earl of Shaftesbury to have inserted my replies to those queries in his Report. They are as follows :—

“ 1st Query.—‘ Did you, or did you not, know, when you first saw Miss H., that she was a dirty patient ? ’

“ 2nd Query.—‘ When did you first know that she was a dirty patient ? ’

“ The reply was as follows :—

“ ‘ On referring to my notes respecting H. H., I find that she was a patient in Bethlem Hospital only from the 4th to the 18th of April—that I was present on her admission, and was informed that she was a mischievous patient, consequently she was placed in the department of the Hospital appropriated to such patients. I was not informed that she was a dirty patient.

“ ‘ Important concerns requiring my presence in the country soon after her admission, the care of her case was left chiefly to Dr. Wood, with the advice of Dr. Monro, if required.

“ ‘ On my return to London, on the 16th of April, my attention was called to her being in a state of paralysis, and to her having some bruises and marks, stated to have arisen from falls, and from having picked her skin, which she was in the habit of doing.

“ ‘ On the representation of Dr. Wood, on the morning of the 18th, H. H. was discharged—and, by desire of the Treasurer, I examined the body after death, and gave a Report thereon.

This interruption of my attendance accounts to me for my inability to recollect the circumstances of the case sufficiently to give the replies to the queries of the Chairman.'

" Upon the whole, I would observe, that there appears to me to be an *animus* pervading the Report of anything but a liberal and impartial description, in search of the true nature of the case—and the style of examination partakes too much of what formerly prevailed in certain places, but is now almost discontinued—for when the case of H. H. is followed out and traced into the hands of Mr. Lawrence, it is dropped at once, he never having been questioned on the subject, although a material witness, and particularly referred to by me.—(See page 124, No. 1,268.)

" I am deeply grateful that circumstances, over which I had no control, have enabled me at length to see this Report and the Evidence it is pretended to be founded on, and to have it in my power, in so far as I am individually attacked, in the most earnest manner to call the attention of the Governors to the sweeping assumptions, and broad assertions of dereliction of duty, not one tittle of evidence existing for the same.

" The objects in view, and motives of such injustice, I shall not enter upon, but will content myself with respectfully affirming, that I have at all times, and to the best of my ability, fulfilled the duties required of me in the highly responsible situation I have had the honour to hold in the Institution, and that I am very desirous of, and challenge a full enquiry.

" I am,

" Sir,

" Your obedient servant,

ALEX. MORISON."

" B. Welton, Esq.,

" Bridewell Hospital."

SIR A. MORISON'S APPENDIX, NO. 1.

“ A Paper, Suggesting the propriety of the Study of the Nature,
 “ Causes, and Treatment of Mental Diseases, as forming part
 “ of the curriculum of Medical Education, read before ‘ the
 “ Society for Improving the Condition of the Insane,’ by SIR
 “ A. MORISON, M.D.—1st July, 1844.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I embrace the present opportunity of offering a few observations upon a subject intimately connected with the object of our Society—the extension, amongst medical men, of the knowledge of the nature, causes, and treatment of Mental Diseases.

“ For many years past I have studied to accomplish this very desirable object, and have attempted, in various ways, to induce medical men to turn their attention to it; at the present time, the public appears to take an interest in it, and I have great hopes that something may be effected.

“ Above twenty years ago, encouraged by his Royal Highness the late Duke of York, (the guardian of his father, King George the Third, during his long and melancholy illness,) I arranged a course of lectures upon the subject, which I delivered in 1823, and which I have continued to the present time. His Royal Highness was pleased to communicate his approbation in the following terms:—‘ His Royal Highness the Duke of York much approves of the proposed undertaking, of giving a Course of Lectures on the Cure and Prevention of Mental Diseases, and commands me to acquaint you that he will most readily afford you his patronage on the occasion.—Signed, Patrick MacGregor, 1st October, 1823.’

“ Although the number of gentlemen who have been induced to honour these lectures by their attendance scarcely amounts to one hundred and fifty, you will find in the list appended the names of men of very considerable eminence.

“ In 1823, I made an application to the University of Edinburgh, that these lectures might be attached to the course of study

of the medical students in that place ; and notice is taken of them in the Report of the Commissioners on the Universities in Scotland ;—vol. 1, p. 216, and p. 348, printed in 1837.

“ At p. 216, Professor Alison, on 24th October, 1826, in his examination says :—

“ ‘ There is one point in regard to the Medical School, which I did not mention. It has been talked of, at different times, that there should be a professorship of Mental Diseases : this is what has occurred to me, as being an improvement that might be useful in the University ; not that it might be imperative on the students, but that it might be an adjunct to the Medical School.

“ A number of men study here, who afterwards become physicians to the lunatic hospitals in different parts of the country, and have the charge of many persons there confined, and to whom it is an object to have the care of such patients. I have thought, if that were the case, there might be a sort of clinical ward, put under the charge of such a professor in the establishment for lunatics here, which are very considerable.

“ There is an institution of that kind at Paris ; there is not a professorship attached to it, but there is a physician who has the charge of the Lunatics. At the Salpêtrière there is a full course of lectures given on the subject ; I have heard some of them myself ; they have been attended by several friends of mine, at Paris, Englishmen, who have thought it very useful ; and a similar institution, I think, might be easily formed here.’

“ The question was put,—‘ Would not that interfere with the treatment of the patients ? ’ ‘ Of course, if such an establishment were formed, it could not be all the Lunatics that could be made the subject of clinical lectures, but a certain number might.’ And at page 348 of the same Report, Dr. J. Abercrombie, in his examination, 10th November, 1826, says, in reply to the question,—‘ Would you consider that any advantage was likely to be derived from the institution of a class for the purpose of lectures on Mental Diseases, connected with the Asylum, if it could be done ? ’ —‘ I do not know ; it comes in always as a part of the class of the practice of physic. I do not see much encouragement for a

separate professorship of that kind ; but, a *lectureship* on that subject might be attached to the University with advantage.'

"The Rev. George H. Baird, Principal of the University, in a letter dated 31st July, 1827, says: 'Though I am not professionally a medical person, and may therefore be considered as comparatively an incompetent judge of the value of a separate course of lectures on Mental Diseases ; yet I presume to state my decided opinion, both on general principles and on a careful perusal of the syllabus of that course which you have repeatedly given here, and which was given, to my personal knowledge, with the high approbation of skilful medical men, that such a course would form an useful and important addition to the means of education, at once for the physician and the surgeon.'

"Some time after, I made an application to Government, but the importance of the subject did not then appear to be sufficiently appreciated: of this importance, Sir William Ellis, a practical author of much experience, in his publication on *Insanity*, 1838, says, 'it is perfectly inconsistent with common sense to suppose that a man shall intuitively know how to treat insanity.' 'It is universally acknowledged to be a most difficult and mysterious disease, and yet it is almost the only one on which the medical student receives no particular instruction ; in his attendance on the hospitals, he will in all probability have met with almost every other variety of disease which afflicts human nature ; at all events, his lectures will have supplied him with some information as to their treatment ; but I believe that my friend and colleague, Dr. Morison, of Cavendish Square, is the only lecturer in London, expressly on *Insanity* ; and I understand that he has not a large class.'—'The result is, that professional men, in other respects well educated, commence practice almost in a state of total ignorance on the subject ; this ought to be remedied ; the first step would be, not to permit any student to be qualified to pass an examination, either as a physician, surgeon or apothecary, without producing certificates of having previously attended a course of lectures on *Insanity*.' He further adds, 'I am aware that the instruction obtained from the mere attendance upon

lectures, would not be sufficient to qualify a professional man for undertaking the moral as well as the medical arrangement; but the knowledge that would by this means be gained of the premonitory symptoms, would frequently prevent an attack of Insanity coming on.'—'Clinical lectures have been very strongly recommended; and, if the instruction of the pupils were the only object, there can be no doubt that they ought to be adopted; but it must be remembered, that the first things to be considered are the care and welfare of the patients; and any one *practically* conversant with the disease will, I am sure, acknowledge, that the excitement which would be produced in the minds of the patients by a number of pupils going round an asylum, in the same manner as they go round an hospital, would be most prejudicial; in many cases it would entirely prevent recovery; this, therefore, as a general practice, can never be adopted; but there would be no objection to permit such members of the profession as determined to apply themselves exclusively or more particularly to the study of this disease, to attend public asylums daily.'

"In October, 1839, I presented a petition to the Magistrates managing the Middlesex Asylum at Hanwell, to which I had been appointed by them Consulting Physician, in 1832. The petition stated, 'That great difficulty is found by the student of medicine in rendering himself familiar with the appearances of Mental Diseases; that the want of opportunity of becoming so during his studies, is often severely felt by the practitioner, when called upon to undertake the treatment of Insanity, to sign a certificate of his opinion of the mental condition of his patient, or to give evidence in a court of justice; that this opportunity may be obtained in the Asylum under your management, in which there are now above six hundred patients; that your Petitioner has for many years been employed in preparing lectures on the nature, causes and treatment of Mental Diseases, testimonials of the utility of which are laid before you; that he has continued to deliver these lectures since they were instituted in 1823,—being, he believes, the only regular course of lectures on that subject delivered in this kingdom; that the utility of these lectures would be extended, by your

allowing your petitioner to take with him, once or twice a week, a limited number, not exceeding two or three pupils, to visit Hanwell Asylum, in order to explain to them the different varieties of Mental Diseases—the various stages, complications and terminations thereof—the mode of treatment, and the post mortem appearances. Your petitioner confidently trusts, that a due consideration of the advantages that may result to the community from this measure, in extending the practical knowledge of this important class of diseases, will induce you to grant the petition he has now the honour of laying before you.’

“The petition was agreed to, ‘with the unanimous feeling of the Magistrates.’ A similar reply was given to my petition, of a similar nature, by the Magistrates managing the Surrey Lunatic Asylum, in 1842.

“And I may add, that greater facility of admission to the wards of Bethlem Hospital and of St. Luke’s Hospital, is now, by the indulgence of the Governors, offered to students.

“All our endeavours, however, will fall short of obtaining the desired object, unless means be taken to induce medical students to devote a portion of their time and attention to obtain a competent knowledge of the subject. This may be done, if before admission into the medical services of the Army, the Navy, or the East India Company,—or before admission into the Colleges of Physicians, or of Surgeons, or into the Apothecaries’ Company, the applicant be required to produce a certificate of his attendance on a course of not less than lectures on Mental Diseases; together with such attendance at an hospital or asylum for the Insane, containing not less than patients, as may be considered sufficient to ensure a competent knowledge of the subject; the expense of which to the student need not exceed a few pounds.

“In conclusion, from the favourable replies to the petitions I have now read, there is little doubt of the managers of the hospitals and asylums for the Insane readily giving every facility to this measure.”

SIR A. MORISON'S APPENDIX, No. 2.

“ Copy Report of SIR ALEXANDER MORISON, presented to the
 “ Quarterly Court of Governors, January 25, 1841.

“ To the President, Treasurer, and Governors of the Royal
 “ Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I have the honour to lay before you the Annual Report of the state of the Medical Department of Bethlem Hospital for the year 1840, from which it appears that the number of admissions exceeds that in the preceding year in the proportion of three hundred and fifty to three hundred; and the number of deaths in that of twenty-three to twenty-two, being less in proportion to the number admitted than in 1839; whilst the number of cures, one hundred and eighty, is considerably greater than that in 1839, having been one hundred and forty-two in that year.

UNITED ANNUAL REPORT OF JANUARY, 1841.

From the General Book of Entries and Discharges of both the Physicians.

CURABLES.			INCURABLES.			CRIMINALS.			TOTALS.		
Males.	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Remained in Hospital, 1 Jan. 1840, (including those out on leave of absence)											
61	110	171	26	38	64	65	15	80	152	163	315
Admitted during the year 1840											
128	180	308	17	14	31	7	4	11	152	198	350
189	290	479	43	52	95	72	19	91	304	361	665
Discharged											
64	109	173	0	1	1	5	1	6	69	111	180
25	44	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	44	69
1	3	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	3	6
21	16	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	16	37
Having been sent out on leave of absence, and no accounts afterwards received of their state of mind....											
2	8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	10
Died											
4	8	12	3	1	4	5	2	7	12	11	23
Remaining 31 Dec. 1840											
7	9	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	16
Out on leave			In Hospital								
65	93	158	38	50	88	62	16	78	165	159	324
189	290	479	43	52	95	72	19	91	304	361	665

“ In pursuance of the plan adopted by me four years ago, I lay before you a statement of the cases consigned to my care in the curable department, with the treatment in each of those which was

discharged cured. And I also subjoin a summary of the result of five years from the commencement of my attendance at the Hospital.

“The employment of the patients, and the restraint imposed upon them, have always been, and continue to be, subjects of the most earnest solicitude of your Medical Officers. In my first Report to you, in January 1836, I mentioned that during the preceding year (1835) out of five hundred and seventeen patients, one hundred and eighty-six female patients, and one hundred and twenty-five male patients, had been induced to employ themselves in various useful occupations: and since that time there has been no diminution in the zealous efforts of your officers to increase the proportion, in which they are cordially assisted by the Matron and Steward. In an establishment such as Bethlem Hospital there are difficulties in the way of employing the patients which do not exist in many others, in which much more latitude in the use of instruments of labour is compatible with the safety of the patients. How far the expedient adopted in the Bicêtre, an hospital for male lunatics near Paris, in some respects similar to Bethlem, may be resorted to with advantage, I beg leave respectfully to submit to your consideration. A small farm, named Ferme St. Anne, about two miles from the hospital, has been hired, upon which upwards of sixty of the patients, under the charge of three attendants, are daily employed; and in the Report published at Evreux, in 1839, by Commissioners sent by the Department of the Eure to obtain the best information respecting the management of the insane in Great Britain and in France, this expedient is stated to have answered the most sanguine expectations.

“In Bethlem, the quantity of restraint imposed upon the patients in a state dangerous to themselves or to others is very limited, as will appear in the Weekly Returns laid before you now in a very much improved form: but however anxious your officers may be to avoid imposing it at all, the experience of many years forbids me entertaining a hope, expressed by some, that restraint may in *all* cases be avoided, without resorting to measures of a more injurious description; this subject, however, has been fully entered into in the Report delivered to you in June last.

“From the table presented to the Court, it appears that of five hundred and sixty-two cases of insanity under my care, three hundred and ninety-three, or very nearly *seventy per cent.*, have been discharged well.

“That the largest proportion has been of those labouring under the variety termed mania, which also has been the most prevalent form of the disorder.

“That in thirteen per cent., or nearly one in eight cases, propensity to suicide has existed.

“That the earlier the patient has been removed from exciting causes, and placed under treatment, the sooner and the more frequently has a cure taken place; in the first six months more than double the number have been cured than afterwards.*

“That the disease prevails most between the ages of twenty and forty; that more females suffer than males, and more married persons than single; but that a larger proportion recover of the former than of the latter.

“That more are attacked in spring and summer than in autumn and winter; and that more recover in summer and autumn than in winter and spring.

“That relapses have occurred in about twelve per cent., of whom more than one-half have recovered and remain well.

“That in about one-fourth of the cases no cause could be assigned; of the remaining three-fourths, hereditary predisposition, previous attacks of insanity, drunkenness, and childbearing; grief, anxiety, vexation, disappointment, and fear, have been the most prevalent causes assigned.

“I have the honour to be,

“Gentlemen,

“Your most obedient Servant,

“26, Cavendish Square,

“ALEXANDER MORISON.”

“January 21, 1841.”

* In the first six months,	104 males	}	263
	159 females		
Afterwards	45 males	}	130
	85 females		

STATEMENT OF THE CURABLE PATIENTS

UNDER THE CARE OF SIR A. MORISON IN 1840.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining in Hospital, 1st Jan. 1840, including those out on leave of absence	32	45	77
Admitted during the year 1840	62	91	153
	94	136	230
Cured	38	53	91
Uncured	11	14	25
Discharged—Improper Paralytic 8—3=11 } Epileptic 3—1= 4 } 23 Idiotic 0—2= 2 } Sick and Weak 2—4= 6 }			
Removed by friends 1 f. 1 m.=2 } In default of appearance or cer- } tificate } 2 m. 3 f.=5 }	16	14	30
Died	3	3	6
Remaining 31 Dec. 1840 { Out on leave 3 In Hospital 23	3	4	7
	23	48	71
	94	136	230

From this statement it appears that, deducting the cases excluded by the Rules of the Hospital, and those remaining on the Books 31st December, 1840, there are to be accounted for 122 cases, of whom 91 were cured.

25 uncured.

6 died.

		DESCRIPTION.				Duration on Admission.	CHARACTER OF THE DISORDER
No.	Age.	State.	No. of Children.	Occupation.			
Not exceeding 1 month.	1	43	S.		Small annuitant	3 weeks	Melancholy
	2	53	M.	2	Watchman's wife	1 month	Monomania with fear
	3	36	S.		Needlewoman	1 month	Mania without delirium
	4	40	M.	3	Broker's wife	3 weeks	Mania
	5	25	M.	2	Coachman's wife	10 days	Ditto
	6	23	S.		Needlewoman	6 days	Ditto
	7	22	S.		Needlewom. & teach. of Sun. sch.	14 days	Ditto
	8	23	S.		Workhouse servant	1 month	Ditto
	9	36	M.	1	Tea-dealer's wife	1 week	Ditto
	10	32	M.	3	Hatter's wife	3 weeks	Ditto
	11	24	M.	1	Silkweaver's wife	4 weeks	Ditto
	12	46	S.		Domestic Servant	3 weeks	Monomania—Religious pride
	13	37	M.	1	Clerk's wife	1 month	Monomania with fear
	14	24	S.		Domestic servant	1 week	Mania
	15	22	S.	1	Dressmaker	1 month	Acute dementia
	16	33	M.	none	Tailor's wife and nurse	1 week	Mania
	17	47	M.	3	Carpenter's wife	1 week	Monomania with jealousy
	18	57	M.	6	Butcher's wife	3 weeks	Melancholy disposition to suicide
	19	50	S.		Housekeeper	3 weeks	Melancholy—attempted suicide
20	20	S.		Domestic servant	1 month	Religious melan. dispos. to suicide	
21	36	M.	7	Metal refiner's wife	3 weeks	Mania	
22	30	S.		Dressmaker	3 weeks	Melancholy	
23	30	S.		Milliner	14 days	Melancholy with fear	
24	41	S.		Housemaid	14 days	Religious melancholy	
Not exc. 2 months.	25	21	S.		Needlewoman	8 weeks	Acute dementia
	26	40	M.	4	Stationer's wife	2 months	Ditto
	27	16	S.		Domestic servant (Roman Cath.)	6 weeks	Mania
	28	59	M.	1	Coalporter's wife	8 weeks	Monomania, ideas of grandeur
	29	34	M.	9	Labourer's wife	6 weeks	Mania
	30	36	M.	7	Chairmaker's wife	5 weeks	Acute dementia—attempted suic.
	31	74	S.		Housekeeper	2 months	Mania
	32	21	S.		Straw-bonnet maker	7 weeks	Acute dementia
	33	22	S.		Needlewoman	2 months	Mania
	34	30	M.	8	Coachman's wife	2 months	Melancholy, disposition to suicide
Not exc. 3 months.	35	29	M.	6	Baker's wife	9 weeks	Mania
	36	46	M.	3	Stonemason's wife	3 months	Ditto
	37	50	S.		Reduced gentlewoman	3 months	Melancholy
	38	27	S.		Lady's companion	10 weeks	Monomania, ideas of grandeur
	39	50	M.	none	Blacksmith's wife	3 months	Mania
	40	50	M.	7	Artist's wife	3 months	Melancholy
	41	49	W	4	Shoebinder	3 months	Monomania with fear
42	25	S.		Domestic servant	3 months	Melancholy, disposition to suicide	
43	30	M.	3	Shoemaker's wife	9 weeks	Mania	
Not ex. 6 mo.	44	34	M.	none	Bootmaker's wife	6 months	Melancholy, disposition to suicide
	45	32	S.		Dressmaker	6 months	Religious melan. dispos. to suicide
Not ex. 12 mo.	46	15	S.		Tailor's daughter	4 months	Acute dementia
	47	37	M.	3	Blacksmith's wife	4 months	Mania
	48	35	M.	6	Coachman's wife	6 months	Monomania with jealousy
49	42	M.	1	Sea captain's wife	10 months	Melancholy, disposition to suicide	
50	40	M.	3	Gardener's wife	7 months	Melancholy	
51	26	S.		Nurserymaid	0 months	Religious melancholy	
52	47	M.	8	Clerk's wife	7 months	Melancholy	
53	58	M.	7	Labourer's wife	8 months	Melancholy, disposition to suicide	

MORISON'S CARE, DISCHARGED CURED IN 1840.

ASSIGNED CAUSE.	Hereditary ?	Term of Treatment	Month of Attack	Month of Recovery	REMEDIES AND OBSERVATIONS.
.. .. .	Yes	6 weeks	Oct.	Dec.	General Remedies.* Hyosciamus. camphor, has had several attacks.
fright	Yes	7 months	March	Nov.	G. R.
return to the scene of a former attack	No	14 months	April	July	G. R. Leaches repeatedly applied on the head, warm baths.
.. .. .	Yes	7 months	Sept.	April	G. R.
childbearing	No	1 month	March	April	G. R.
disappointed affection	Yes	5 months	Dec.	April	G. R. Tartrate of antimony.
disappointed affection	No	6 months	Oct.	May	G. R. Tartrate of antimony.
sch.	No	5 months	Nov.	May	G. R. Unguent sulphur; deaf and dumb.
childbearing	Yes	8 months	Nov.	July	G. R. Croton oil, morphia, warm baths, fed by stomach pump.
suckling	No	8 months	Aug.	April	G. R. Cold lotions applied on the head.
exaction, bad conduct of her father ..	Yes	3 months	Sept.	Jan.	G. R.
.. .. .	..	5 months	Jan.	July	G. R.
suckling	Yes	6 months	Jan.	July	G. R. Camphor, cinchona, generous diet.
fright	No	4 months	March	July	G. R. Hyosciamus, digitalis, camphor, gen. diet.
.. .. .	Yes	2 months	March	June	G. R.
loss of money followed by intemperance	No	5 months	May	Oct.	G. R.
critical period of life.. .. .	No	6 months	June	Dec.	G. R. A course of mild laxatives with bitters.
exaction, losses in business	Yes	5 months	July	Dec.	G. R.
.. .. .	No	2 months	Aug.	Nov.	G. R. Generous diet.
error from a fire, menses obstructed..	No	2 months	Aug.	Nov.	G. R. Warm baths, camphor, aloetic medicines.
fright before childbearing	No	2 months	Sept.	Dec.	G. R. Warm baths, hyosciamus.
disappointed affection	No	6 weeks	Sept.	Dec.	G. R. Warm baths.
.. .. .	Yes	10 months	Dec.	Oct.	G. R. A course of mild laxatives with bitters; a second attack.
change of mode of religious worship ..	No	9 months	Feb.	Dec.	G. R.
suppressed menses	No	9 months	April	March	G. R. Shower baths, camphor, aloetic medicines.
.. .. .	Yes	11 months	July	Aug.	G. R. Blister to the occiput.
.. .. .	No	10 months	Dec.	Nov.	G. R. Warm baths, camphor, aloetic medicines.
fright, fell into a deep ditch of water..	No	2 months	Feb.	May	G. R.
.. .. .	Yes	6 weeks	March	June	G. R.
childbearing	Yes	7 months	April	Dec.	G. R.
drunkenness	Yes	2 months	April	Aug.	G. R. A second attack.
hysteria, suppressed menses	No	4 months	June	Nov.	G. R. Warm baths, cinchona, camphor, aloetic medicines.
quarrel with her mother	No	2 months	July	Nov.	G. R. A second attack.
.. .. .	Yes	4 months	Aug.	Feb.	G. R.
childbearing	No	3 months	Oct.	March	G. R. A course of mild laxatives.
neuralgia	No	12 months	May	Aug.	G. R. Blister to the nape of the neck, ointment with tartrate of antimony.
fright and fright	Yes	11 months	Sept.	Nov.	G. R. Warm baths, wine, cure preceded by carbuncles.
.. .. .	No	4 months	July	Feb.	G. R. Tartrate of antimony, hyosciamus.
drunkenness	No	8 months	Feb.	Dec.	G. R.
exaction, losses in business	Yes	2 months	Feb.	July	G. R. Had menorrhagia.
fall from embarrassed circumstances	Yes	2 months	March	Aug.	G. R. A second attack.
reading on abstruse subjects, and long watching a sick person	No	4 months	April	Oct.	G. R.
error of her husband's cruelty.. .. .	No	3 months	June	Nov.	G. R.
hematism	Yes	7 months	Aug.	Sept.	G. R. Blisters to shaved head.
fright, suppressed menses	No	12 months	Oct.	May	G. R. Course of mild laxatives, shower baths, hyosciamus, camphor, ammonia, aloetic medicines, hip baths.
.. .. .	No	4 months	Dec.	Sept.	G. R.
fright, death of child.. .. .	No	2 months	April	Oct.	G. R. Hyosciamus, digitalis, camphor.
childbearing	Yes	9 months	Sept.	Dec.	G. R.
fright	Yes	6 months	Sept.	Jan.	G. R. Warm baths, douche, valerian, blister and issue on the neck.
severe dyspepsia	No	15 months	Feb.	Dec.	G. R. Leeches on the head, seton in the neck, a course of mercury.
.. .. .	No	4 months	July	Aug.	G. R. Shower baths.
childbearing	No	2 months	Jan.	Sept.	G. R.
.. .. .	Yes	2 months	Dec.	Oct.	G. R.

	DESCRIPTION.				Duration on Admission.	CHARACTER OF THE DISORDER.	
	No.	Age	State.	No. of Children			Occupation.
Not exceeding one month.	1	24	M.	2	Dealer in fishing tackle	3 weeks	Monomania with fear
	2	53	M.	2	Keeper of a coffee-house	14 days	Acute dementia
	3	55	M.	4	Tailor	3 weeks	Mon. with propensity to suicide ..
	4	31	M.	none	Fishmonger	1 month	Mania succeeded by dementia ..
	5	55	M.	7	Gardener	2 weeks	Monomania, ideas of grandeur ..
	6	31	S.		Bookseller	1 week	Mania
	7	46	M.	none	Tea dealer	1 month	Mania
	8	23	S.		Upholsterer	1 month	Mania
	9	46	M.	1	Farmer	1 month	Mania
	10	37	S.		Solicitor's clerk	1 month	Acute dementia
	11	24	S.		Shoemaker	1 week	Monomania with fear
	12	47	M.	7	Tanner	2 weeks	Mania
	13	36	S.		Clerk on the railway	3 weeks	Monomania, ideas of grandeur ..
	14	32	M.	3	Corn-chandler	4 weeks	Mania
	15	25	S.		Labourer	2 weeks	Mania
	16	17	S.		Upholsterer	2 weeks	Mania
Not exc. 2 mo.	17	17	S.		Fishmonger's apprentice	6 weeks	Mania, religious pride
	18	31	S.		Schoolmaster	2 months	Mania, ideas of grandeur
	19	55	M.	none	Stationer	2 months	Mania, ideas of grandeur
	20	47	M.	5	Jeweller	2 months	Mania, ideas of grandeur
	21	21	S.		Gardener	2 months	Acute dementia
Not exc. 3 mo.	22	26	S.		Silk manufacturer	2 months	Mania
	23	47	M.	7	Cabinetmaker	7 weeks	Mania
	24	49	M.	4	Fisherman	3 months	Mania
	25	40	M.	6	Waterman	9 weeks	Mania
Not exc. 6m.	26	41	S.		Farm servant	3 months	Acute dementia
	27	37	M.	3	Horse-keeper	3 months	Acute dementia
	28	19	S.		Artist's apprentice	11 weeks	Acute dementia
	29	21	S.		Bookseller	3 months	Acute dementia
Not ex. 12m.	30	16	S.		Errand-boy	4 months	Mania
	31	54	M.	4	Tailor	4 months	Mania
	32	30	M.	4	Farm servant	4 months	Monomania, religious pride ..
	33	39	M.	none	Shipwright	4 months	Acute dementia
	34	20	S.		Student	4 months	Monomania, ideas of grandeur ..
	35	50	M.	14	Fishmonger	5 months	Melancholy. dis. to commit murder
	36	47	M.	1	Farmer	6 months	Melancholy, dis. to commit suicide
	37	55	M.	11	Farmer	11 months	Mania
	38	40	M.	2	Dealer in skins	10 months	Melancholy

MORISON'S CARE, DISCHARGED CURED IN 1840.

ASSIGNED CAUSE.	Hereditary?	Term of Treatment	Month of Attack	Month of Recovery	REMEDIES AND OBSERVATIONS.
Blow on the head	Yes	4 months	Feb.	June	General Remedies.* Warm baths.
.. .. .	No	7 months	Oct.	May	G. R.
Much stooping	No	5 months	June	Dec.	G. R. Warm baths, a course of mild laxatives; a second attack.
.. .. .	No	15 months	Aug.	Dec.	G. R. Leeches to the head, blister on nape, seton in ditto, a course of mercury.
Pleurisy	No	4 months	Oct.	March	G. R. A third attack.
.. .. .	No	15 months	April	July	G. R. Head shaved, leeches to head, blisters, two blisters to nape, warm baths, douche, a course of mercury; a third attack.
.. .. .	No	4 months	Nov.	April	G. R. Has had several attacks.
.. .. .	No	4 months	Oct.	Oct.	G. R. A second attack.
.. .. .	Yes	3 months	Dec.	April	G. R. A third attack. Tartrate of antimony, hyosciamus, a course of mild laxatives.
Vexation from embarrassment of affairs	No	3 months	Sept.	Jan.	G. R. Generous diet, and wine.
.. .. .	No	3 months	Feb.	April	G. R. A second attack.
Typhus fever	Yes	1 month	April	June	G. R.
Over exertion in business and drinking	No	3 months	June	Sept.	G. R.
Blow on the head, and drunkenness ..	No	5 months	April	Oct.	G. R. Warm baths.
Grief, death of a brother	No	4 months	July	Nov.	G. R.
.. .. .	No	6 weeks	Jan.	March	G. R.
Change of mode of religious worship ..		6 months	July	Feb.	G. R. Warm baths and douche.
Over study		9 months	Nov.	Oct.	G. R.
A fall	No	10 months	Dec.	Dec.	G. R. A course of mild laxatives.
Excitement during an election		3 months	Dec.	May	G. R.
Vexation for having drowned a favourite puppy	No	6 months	Feb.	Oct.	G. R.
.. .. .		1 month	March	July	G. R.
Vexation on acct. of his wife's insanity		10 weeks	Jan.	May	G. R. A second attack.
Drunkenness	Yes	3 months	Sept.	March	G. R.
A fall, and suppression of an habitual epistaxis	No	16 months	Sept.	March	G. R. Blister to the nape, a course of mild laxatives.
.. .. .	No	19 months	Nov.	Sept.	G. R. Warm baths, douche, a course of mild laxatives and bitters.
Fall on his head	No	5 months	Dec.	Aug.	G. R. Warm baths.
Disappointment	No	6 months	Dec.	Sept.	G. R. Shower baths, warm baths, douche.
Getting wet in convalescence from fever	No	3 months	June	Dec.	G. R.
Scarlet fever	No	1 month	Oct.	March	G. R. Warm baths.
Over study of religious books	No	3 months	Nov.	June	G. R. Warm baths.
.. .. .	No	2 months	Nov.	May	G. R.
.. .. .	No	6 months	Dec.	Oct.	G. R. Warm baths, douche.
Fever	No	6 months	Jan.	Dec.	G. R. Warm baths.
Difficulties on religious subjects ..	Yes	6 months	Jan.	Dec.	G. R. Warm baths.
Vexation from losses.. .. .	No	2 months	Dec.	May	G. R.
Vexation from reduced circumstances	No	13 months	Oct.	April	G. R. Croton oil, warm baths.
Vexation from losses	No	9 months	Oct.	June	G. R.
Drunkenness	No	9 months	Jan.	Aug.	G. R. Warm baths, issue on course of the sagittal suture, a course of mild laxatives.

* General Remedies are those employed in every case: they include—

Removal from exciting causes.

Attention to the general health, in particular to the state of the digestive organs.

The regulation of employment, useful or amusing.

Of the visits of friends.

Of religious worship.

SUMMARY OF 562 CASES OF INSANITY

Included within the Rules of Admission to Bethlem Hospital, treated by Sir A. Morison in Five Years ending 1840.

	FEMALES.			MALES.			
	Duration of the disease on the commencement of Treatment.	Cured.	Uncured.	Total.	Cured.	Uncured.	Total.
MANIA.	1 month	73	12	85	37	5	42
	3 months	36	11	47	29	9	38
	6 months	11	6	17	9	9	18
	12 months	5	2	7	3	4	7
				Died 8			Died 5
				<u>164</u>			<u>110=274</u>
MONOMANIA.	1 month	10	2	12	13	2	15
Elated In- sanity . . }	3 months	6	3	9	12	1	13
	6 months	2	2	4	1	2	3
	12 months	1	4	5	0	1	1
				Died 2			Died 3
				<u>32</u>			<u>35= 67</u>
Melancholy Insanity . }	1 month	20	8	28	11	2	13
	3 months	26	6	32	7	0	7
	6 months	14	3	17	4	3	7
	12 months	7	7	14	2	3	5
				Died 8			Died 2
				<u>99</u>			<u>34=133</u>
Insanity with Love }	1 month	4	2	6			
	3 months	0	2	2			
	6 months	1	0	1			
	12 months	0	3	3			
				<u>12</u>			<u>= 12</u>
Jealous In- sanity . . }	12 months	0	1		1		<u>= 2</u>
Fear Insa- nity . . }	1 month	5	0	5	6	4	10
	3 months	5	2	7	1	0	1
	6 months	1	3	4	2	3	5
	12 months	1	2	3	1	0	0
				Died 1			
				<u>20</u>			<u>16= 36</u>

	FEMALES.				MALES.		
	Duration of the disease on the commencement of Treatment.	Cured.	Uncured.	Total.	Cured.	Uncured.	Total.
MONOMANIA.							
Demonomania . . .	3 months	1	0	1			
	6 months	0	1	1			
	12 months	1	0	1			
				3			= 3
ACUTE DEMENTIA.	1 month	1	1	2	5	0	5
	3 months	8	1	9	5	2	7
	6 months	1	1	2	0	1	1
	12 months	3	0	3	1	1	2
				16		Died 2	17 = 33
MANIA WITHOUT DELIRIUM.	1 month	1	0				
	3 months	1	0	2			= 2
	Total	244	86	Died 19	149	52	Died 12 = 562

In five years . . . { 393 cured.
138 uncured.
31 died.

	Females.	Males.		
Propensity to suicide occurred in 73 of the above cases, viz. . . .	35	17	Recovered	52
	11	4	Uncured . .	15
	4	2	Died . . .	6
			73	
Propensity to murder existed in 4 cases	1	1	Cured	
	1	1	Uncured	
			4	
Propensity to steal	1		Cured . .	1
Propensity to burn		1	Uncured . .	1
Propensity against nature*		1	Cured . .	1
Propensity to Drunkenness	1	1	Cured . .	2

* In this case a cure followed the exhibition of large doses of camphor.

Ages.				Females.	Males.
Under	15 years	.	.	2	2
From	15 to 20	.	.	16	15
	20 to 30	.	.	101	64
	30 to 40	.	.	100	55
	40 to 50	.	.	72	41
	50 to 60	.	.	43	29
	60 to 70	.	.	15	7
				349	213

State.				Females.	Males.	
Single	.	.	.	93	75	Cured
	.	.	.	48	31	Uncured
	.	.	.	4	3	Died
						254
Married	.	.	.	133	66	Cured
	.	.	.	29	19	Uncured
	.	.	.	14	9	Died
						270
Widowed	.	.	.	18	8	Cured
	.	.	.	9	2	Uncured
	.	.	.	1	0	Died
						38

SEASONS.

Commenced in	Fem.	Males.	Discharged well	Fem.	Males.
	January	15		11	January	11	5
February	24	12	February	18	4
March	42	22	March	18	9
April	34	17	April	26	11
May	30	16	May	13	17
June	40	20	June	22	16
July	24	22	July	21	16
August	30	14	August	23	11
September	30	22	September	22	10
October	22	21	October	17	17
November	23	19	November	15	15
December	35	17	December	38	18

RECURRENCE OF THE DISORDER IN THE COURSE OF FIVE YEARS.

In 1 person three times	} all of whom recovered.
In 4 persons twice	
In 23 persons once	
In 20 persons once, of whom	
	1 died.
	3 became paralytic.
	16 remain insane.

DURATION OF TREATMENT IN 393 CASES DISCHARGED WELL.

	Females.		Males.
1 month.....	1	.....	3
2 months	23	.....	22
3 months	50	.....	26
4 months	23	.....	20
5 months	30	.....	16
6 months	32	.....	17
7 months	17	.....	10
8 months	11	.....	5
9 months	12	.....	8
10 months	15	.....	1
11 months	6	.....	9
12 months	11	.....	5
13 months	3	.....	2
14 months	4	.....	2
15 months	0	.....	0
16 months	3	.....	2
17 months	1	.....	1
18 months	2	.....	0

STATION AND EMPLOYMENT.

MALES.

1 Clergyman.	9 Tailors.
1 Surgeon.	4 Clothesmen and Hawkers.
1 Solicitor.	4 Linendrapers.
1 Stockbroker.	1 Dyer.
1 Army Captain.	1 Silkweaver.
1 Sea Captain.	8 Sailors, Watermen, and Fishermen.
2 Artists.	16 Carpenters, Cabinet-makers, Coachwrights, Coopers, Carvers, and Sawyers.
3 Schoolmasters and Tutors	10 Blacksmiths, Founders, and Pewterers.
3 Students.	9 Painters.
1 Chemist.	4 Publicans and Coffeehouse-keepers.
2 Engineers.	3 Grocers and Tea-dealers.
1 Ventriloquist.	1 Stoneware Merchant.
5 Printers.	1 Mason.
8 Booksellers, Stationers, and Bookbinders.	13 Clerks and Shopmen.
19 Shoemakers and dealers in leather.	2 Butlers.
8 Farmers.	2 Coachmen.
9 Gardeners.	4 Grooms and Hostlers.
6 Greengrocers and Fruiterers.	8 Servants.
16 Labourers.	3 Carriers and Porters.
1 Scavenger.	1 Policeman.
1 Costermonger.	1 Gunner.
3 Cattle-dealers.	
3 Butchers.	
6 Fishmongers.	
4 Bakers.	

FEMALES.

6 Wives and daughters of professional men.	23 Females supporting themselves in trade, or with small annuities.
125 Do. of Tradesmen.	77 Females in servitude, including ladies' companions and maids, housekeepers, cooks, and domestic servants.
16 Do. of Farmers and Gardeners.	4 Prostitutes.
10 Do. of Sailors and Watermen.	
7 Do. of Publicans.	
34 Do. of Labourers and Servants.	
13 Teachers and Governesses.	
35 Milliners, Dressmakers, and Needlewomen.	

ASSIGNED CAUSE.

	Females.	Males.
Hereditary predisposition	26	12
Besides the above, hereditary predisposition was stated to have existed in 45 cases, in which other exciting causes were assigned; viz. 34 females and 11 males.		
Irregularity in the Uterine Functions.		
Suppressed menses	10	}
Uterine hæmorrhage	1	
Abortion.....	3	
Critical period	2	
Uterine disease	1	
Pregnancy	3	0
Childbearing	33	0
Protracted suckling	4	0
Weaning	2	0
Fever	12	4
Inflammation of the Eyes	1	0
Bronchitis	1	0
Pleurisy	0	1
Pulmonary disease.....	1	0
Enteritis.....	0	1
Constipation	0	1
Falls, and blows on the head.....	3	7
Acute rheumatism	7	3
Tic douleureux	1	0
Chorea	0	1
Exposure to the heat of the sun	1	3
Bathing in very cold water	0	1
Excessive fatigue	1	2
Sea sickness	1	0
Drunkenness	12	31
Fumes of wine	0	1
Fumes of blacking	0	1
Fumes of charcoal and lead	0	1
Lues	1	1
Excessive use of mercury	0	1
Grief	35	1
Vexation	15	13
Remorse of Conscience	1	0
Disappointed affection	20	5
Disappointed hope.....	1	4
Anxiety	14	7
——, distressed circumstances	8	8
Fear, terror.....	21	7
Surprise	0	1
Joy.....	1	3
Quarrelling	4	2
Celibacy	0	1
Marriage	0	2
Jealousy	1	1
Adultery	0	1
Excessive mental exertion, including much reading on religious subjects, religious doubts and fears, change of religious opinions	13	10
Previous attacks of insanity	12	7
No cause assigned	76	68

CASES WHO HAVE DIED IN FIVE YEARS.
FEMALES.

No.	Age	State	Occupation.	Assigned Cause.	Duration on Admission.	Character of Mental Disorder.	Died after Admission.	Cause of Death
1	16	S.	Servant	-	10 days	Mania -	17 days	Exhaust. aft. great cerebral excitement
2	24	S.	Lady's maid	-	1 month	Melancholy on religion, propensity to suicide	14 days	Exhaustion, refusal of food.
3	29	M.	Joiner's wife	Vexation	6 weeks	Melancholy, propen. to suicide	10 weeks	Exhaustion, refusal of food.
4	31	M.	Dressmaker	-	1 month	Mania	11 days	Exhaustion.
5	34	M.	Clerk's wife	Terror	9 days	Mania	18 days	Exhaustion.
6	36	M.	Blacksmith's wife	Excessive reading the Revelations, &c.	2 weeks	Mania	3 days	Exhaustion.
7	40	M.	Broker's wife	Miscarriage, hered.	5 weeks	Mania	7 months	Exhaustion. Dropsy, fluid in the chest and abdomen, heart diseased.
8	43	M.	Servant	Formerly insane	2 weeks	Mania	10 days	Apoplexy.
9	47	S.	Cook	-	2 weeks	Melancholy	6 weeks	Exhaustion.
10	48	M.	Navy commander's wife	Terror, hered., the arrest of husband.	10 weeks	Melancholy on religion, with propensity to suicide	20 days	Exhaustion, refusal of food.
11	50	M.	Groom's wife	-	6 months	Mania	10 days	Exhaustion.
12	52	M.	Bricklayer's wife	Grief, death of child	10 months	Elated insanity	10 months	Synochus (fever.)
13	52	S.	Tea dealer	Disapp. affection	7 months	Melancholy on religion	6 months	Diarrhœa.
14	53	M.	Calico printer's wife	Drunkennes, hered.	2 months	Elated (paralytic)	1 month	Strangulated hernia.
15	56	M.	Gardener's wife	Formerly insane	6 months	Melancholy	2 months	Hydrothorax.
16	57	M.	Victualler's wife	Acute rheumatism	4 months	Melancholy, propen. to suicide	3 weeks	Suicide: cut with a piece of glass, it was said, the superior thyroid artery
17	57	M.	Wood dealer's wife	Anxiety about her son	2 months	Fear	4 months	Pleurisy.
18	59	W.	Butcher's widow	Anxiety	3 months	Mania	1 day	Exhaustion.
19	60	M.	Miller's wife	Excessive reading on religious subjects	10 months	Melancholy on religion	3 weeks	Syncope, expired in less than 2 min. without a strug. and without speaking.

“ MORBID APPEARANCES.

“ 1. No deviation from the normal condition of the brain and membranes observed except congestion of the blood-vessels, both external and internal; the cerebral substance, the ventricles, and the arachnoid, were perfectly healthy. The left lung was hepaticized, and marks of disease were observed in the chest and abdomen.

“ 7. The blood-vessels of the brain and membranes turgid; the cellular texture of the pia mater on the convexities of the cerebral hemispheres largely infiltrated; the fluid in the lateral ventricles increased in quantity; there was much fluid in the cranium after the brain had been removed.

“ 8. The convolutions of the cerebral hemispheres were partially flattened; the blood-vessels of the brain and membranes were loaded; when the dura mater was divided and detached, the subjacent membranes exhibited three or four small patches of a bright yellow discolouration, but no fluid could be squeezed out of them; the cut surfaces of the cerebral substance everywhere exhibited numerous bloody points; the lateral ventricles were distended with about two ounces of turbid fluid in each; there was thick yellow pus, about one or two tea-spoonfuls, in the bottom of the reflected horns of each ventricle; the lining membrane of the ventricles exhibited vascular ramifications and minute ecchymoses, and the arachnoid coat covering the pons varolii and neighbouring parts of the brain was thickened and opaque, and of a light yellow colour from purulent infiltration; the substance of the brain was soft, particularly around the ventricles and at the basis. The cause of these appearances is conceived by Mr. Lawrence, to whom I am indebted for the description of the morbid appearances, to have been acute inflammation of the lining membrane of the ventricles and of the arachnoid coat.

“ 15. Much blood escaped on dividing the integuments and sawing the skull, and the vessels of the brain and membranes were enlarged. Five or six quarts of fluid of a reddish colour were contained in the chest.

“ 17. The blood-vessels of the brain and membranes were turgid; in other respects the contents of the cranium appeared healthy; marks of inflammation were visible in the pleura, in the cavity of which bloody fluid was contained.

“ 18. A large quantity of blood escaped from the vessels of the head in cutting the skin and sawing through the skull; the vessels of the brain were moderately injected, and there was slight serous infiltration of the pia mater; in other respects the contents of the cranium were perfectly healthy, as also those of the thorax and abdomen.

“ 19. In this case there was general fulness of the blood-vessels; sections of the cerebral substance everywhere exhibiting numerous divided orifices; there was serous infiltration of the pia mater; at some points of the cerebral hemispheres the convolutions were shrunk so as to leave conspicuous intervals, which were occupied by the infiltrated pia mater; the substance of the brain appeared to be healthy and firm; the trachea and larynx, the contents of the chest, and of the abdomen, were all perfectly healthy, exhibiting no appearance to throw any light on the very sudden death of this patient, which it was imagined might have proceeded from an affection of the heart or some large blood-vessel.”

CASES WHO HAVE DIED IN FIVE YEARS.
MALES.

No.	Age.	State.	Occupation.	Assigned Cause.	Duration on Admission.	Character of Mental Disorder.	Died after Admission.	Cause of Death.
1	19	S.	Fruiterer	-	1 month	Elated insanity	19 days	Exhaustion, after great cerebral excitement.
2	25	M.	Costermonger	-	2 months	Elated insanity	11 months	Phthisis.
3	35	S.	Merchant's son	-	10 months	Dementia	10 months	Apoplexy.
4	36	M.	Farmer	Vexation, adultery detected; hereditary	4 months	Melancholy, propensity to suicide	3 months	Diarrhœa.
5	39	M.	Grocer	Vexation, misfortune in business	3 months	Mania	8 days	Exhaustion, after great cerebral excitement.
6	40	S.	Mason	Drunkennes	3 weeks	Mania	5 months	Pulmonary disease.
7	40	M.	Attorney's clerk	Quarrelling	2 weeks	Elated insanity	4 months	Pulmonary disease.
8	43	M.	A Porter	Anxiety about business	14 days	Mania	22 days	General paralysis.
9	44	M.	Hostler	Marriage; hereditary	6 months	Acute dementia	1 month	Exhaustion.
10	45	M.	Tailor	-	3 months	Mania	15 days	Exhaustion.
11	46	M.	Clergyman	Distressed circumstances	3 months	Melancholy, propensity to suicide	11 days	Exhaustion after cerebral excitement, and refusal of food.
12	60	M.	Shoemaker	Anxiety; hereditary	1 month	Mania	4 days	Exhaustion.

" MORBID APPEARANCES.

" 3. Remarkable turgidity of the blood-vessels, in the substance of the brain especially; the superior longitudinal sinus filled with a coagulum firmly adhering to its sides like a recent clot, at two or three points gradually changed into a dull reddish brown fluid, of the consistence of pus; a large vein about the middle of each hemisphere greatly distended, and filled with a fine coagulum, presenting at some points a similar fluid; this vein terminated at each side in the cavernous sinus; other veins were filled with firm coagula; a considerable ecchymosis of the pia mater, and slight infiltration of that coat. The lungs were in parts hepatized, and contained an abscess.

" 5. Blood-vessels of the brain and membranes turgid; numerous bloody points in the cerebral substance, and the medullary matter presenting here and there a faint violet tint; slight serous infiltration of the pia mater in the cerebral hemispheres; about an ounce of clear fluid in each lateral ventricle. The lungs were diseased.

" 6. The blood-vessels of the brain and membranes extremely turgid; the cellular texture of the pia mater in a state of serous infiltration over the entire upper and lateral surfaces of the cerebral hemispheres; the lateral ventricles contained rather more than the normal quantity of fluid, and there was much fluid in the basis of the skull. Extensive hepatization, with a large abscess in the lungs.

" 7. The arachnoid coat somewhat thickened and opaque, and the pia mater considerably infiltrated over the cerebral hemispheres: the lateral ventricles enlarged, and filled with transparent fluid; a considerable quantity of fluid in the basis of the skull; no deviation from the healthy state observed in the substance of the brain.

" 8. The blood-vessels of the brain and membranes turgid; numerous bloody points appeared in every situation; the arachnoid coat thickened and partially opaque, especially along the edges of the fissure between the cerebral hemispheres; the cellular sub-

stance of the pia mater in the hemispheres considerably infiltrated. The structure of the brain appeared natural.

“ The mucous membrane of the trachea and bronchii of a bright red, and covered with a thick yellow secretion ; the lungs adhered to the sides in several places ; contained an abscess and an enlarged bronchial gland containing a substance like putty.

“ 10. The blood-vessels of the brain and membranes were turgid ; the arachnoid coat on the cerebral hemispheres was considerably thickened and opake ; there was great infiltration of the pia mater, and an increased quantity of fluid in the ventricles.”

3.—REMARKS BY MRS. HUNTER, THE MATRON.

“ To the President, Treasurer, and Governors of Bethlehem Hospital.—August, 1852.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ Permit me to express the satisfaction I feel at the opportunity afforded me of laying before your Committee such observations as may, I trust, remove any unfavourable impression which certain statements in the Commissioners’ Report are calculated to create.

Extract.—Page 7.

“ ‘ The power of classifying and employing the female patients, lately transferred to her (the Matron) by the Treasurer, as already referred to, and which she now exercises, quite independent of the medical officers of the Institution.’

“ As this statement is reiterated in different forms, no fewer than seven times in the Report, it is evidently one to which the Commissioners attach very great importance. It is, therefore, the more remarkable that in this instance the Commissioners have entirely misapprehended the duties of the officers they reflect upon, as well as the Rules of the Hospital with which they were furnished in the first instance.

“ The duty of classification is erroneously assumed by them to have been taken from the Resident Medical Officer, and transferred to the Matron.

“The fact is, the Apothecary never was invested with the classification, except ‘in the absence of the Physicians,’ and subject to revision by them daily. The Physicians (who are also erroneously described as ‘Visiting Physicians,’ a distinction which ought to be apparent to the professional members of the Commission) are responsible for the entire course of treatment, both moral and medical, of their respective patients, and direct and control the classification. If, in their absence, any deviation from the prescribed practice became necessary, it would, of course, devolve either upon the Apothecary or the Matron, as the only Resident Officers to make such alterations; but not only do the rules, but also the evidence of Dr. Monro and Sir Alexander Morison, show that such alterations are at all times subject to the supervision and correction of the Physicians.

“In Dr. Monro’s evidence, the following questions and answers occur:—

“‘980—Q. Have you any powers, and if any, what are they, over the Resident Medical Officer, Matron, or Attendants?’

“‘A. I look upon myself as the Superior Officer, and I do occasionally give directions to each.’

“‘1,012—Q. Do you know who classifies and distributes the female patients?’

“‘A. The Matron and Dr. Wood.’

“‘1,013—Q. Do you ever make suggestions thereon?’

“‘A. Yes; I often suggest when I think a patient is well enough to go into the upper gallery,’ &c.

“‘963—Q. In short, as a medical man you are not restricted?’

“‘A. Not at all.’

“In Sir A. Morison’s evidence, the following questions and answers occur:—

“‘1,166—Q. Have you any power over the Resident Medical Officer, Matron, or Attendants?’

“‘A. I presume they are entirely under the control of the Physician when there, and are required to attend to his directions when absent, unless they see any reason to alter it.’

“ To a question put to Sir A. Morison—

“ ‘ 1,236—*A.* Whenever I saw a patient wrongly placed, I should alter it.’

“ The foregoing evidence clearly demonstrates that the Physicians were perfectly aware of their paramount authority in this respect, upon which they invariably acted, whenever they saw fit.

“ It would not be decorous in me to presume to defend the directions given to me by the Treasurer ; but it must be within the knowledge of the professional members of the Commission that, in authorising a Matron, in the absence of the Physicians, to take measures occasionally for the order of the female wards, and the employment and classification of the female patients, the Treasurer was merely doing that which is the practice in every well-regulated asylum within their jurisdiction.

“ Without dwelling longer on this point, I submit but two observations—1st, that this charge, if a matter of complaint, is not one for which I ought to be reflected on, as in discharging this difficult and important duty, I was acting in obedience to the authorities of the Hospital ; and, 2dly, that it is somewhat inconsistent to blame me both for discharging additional duties and for a general neglect of duty.

Extract—Page 8.

“ ‘Either from some misapprehension on her (the Matron’s) part or from some alteration in the Rules of which we are not cognizant, she does not make any report on the subject of restraint, that report being now made by the nurses directly to the Resident Apothecary.’

“ No female patient is ever placed under restraint except by the immediate direction of a Medical Officer. Every patient becoming dangerous or annoying to others, and not to be soothed or controlled, is removed, as directed by the Rules, into a bedroom, or, if necessary, into a padded room. This is done for temporary security, and the circumstance is immediately communicated to the Medical Officer who visits the patient and gives such orders as he thinks proper. I consequently cannot report to the Medical Officer

anything respecting restraint with which he is not already acquainted.

“ I am responsible for every case appearing to require restraint, being immediately reported to the Medical Officer; and this has always been done.

Extract—Page 8.

“ ‘Adverting to her (the Matron’s) duties to see that the linen of the patients is properly changed, washed, and returned, and that it is her duty to look to the personal comforts of the patients, it might be inferred, that the fact of as many as fifteen female patients sleeping naked in the female ward must have become known to her; but this she assures us was not the case; a fact that can only be attributable to her imperfect and not very frequent visits to this part of the Hospital, and to the fact of her never seeing those patients after their being placed in their beds at night.’

“ The duties first mentioned—viz: ‘ to see that the linen of the patients is properly changed, washed, and returned,’ devolve upon the nurses, according to the following:—

“ ‘DUTIES OF ATTENDANTS AND SERVANTS.

“ ‘72. The Attendants shall fetch from the Laundry the clean Linen and Clothing of their respective Patients.’

“ ‘73. Every Patient shall be provided with clean Linen, and all dirty Linen shall be taken to the Laundry, and, as a General Rule, all foul Linen shall be taken to the Laundry, at the earliest convenient opportunity.’

“ ‘88. The chief Attendant in each Gallery shall prepare, from time to time, lists of Linen and other articles, prior to their being sent to the wash. And on their return from the Laundry, such Attendant shall compare them with the list, and if there be any deficiency, immediate inquiry shall be made for the articles missing.’

“ I am responsible for the discharge of these duties by the Attendants, and can safely affirm that they have always been properly performed.

“ The Extract continues—‘ It might be inferred that the fact of as many as fifteen female patients sleeping naked in the female ward must have become known to her.’

“ Those patients only who were dirty, and were also considered to be dangerous, slept without night-dresses, but they always had a warm blanket to cover the straw on which they slept, and as many blankets over them as were requisite to secure ample warmth.

“ This, according to the testimony of the head attendant, Cliffin, who had lived in the Hospital previously to my becoming Matron, had ‘ always been the rule’ (855) ; and, again, in 858, she says, ‘ It was a rule when I went there, and I have had no fresh rule.’ This statement is corroborated by the testimony of three nurses who were in the Hospital several years prior to my appointment.

“ The plea of long practice would, however, have availed nothing with me, had I been aware of it ; and so strong was my feeling against so objectionable a custom, that my knowledge of it, and its discontinuance were almost simultaneous. As stated in my evidence, I was ignorant of the practice, which I deeply regret ; but must candidly confess that, without some suspicion of its existence, I should have hesitated to strip the bed-clothing from the patients, many of whom might have resented the act as an indignity.

“ With respect to the inference that the practice mentioned must ‘ have become known to me,’ I beg to state that the opinion has been founded upon erroneous impressions, caused, I presume, by the following evidence :—

“ ‘ 859—*Q.* Would Mrs. Hunter know whether the shifts were used by the number supplied by her to the ward.’

“ ‘ *A.* Yes.’

“ ‘ 860—*Q.* She names the number ?’

“ ‘ *A.* Yes.’

“ ‘ 861—*Q.* And takes care of the clothes ?’

“ ‘ *A.* Yes.’

“ These answers are at variance with the fact. The clothing of all the patients, except such as are ‘ incurable ’ or ‘ criminal,’ is provided by their friends, and is kept in the wards, under the

charge of each Head Attendant, together with a considerable supply provided by the Hospital for use on emergencies. There was at all times in the wards sufficient night-dresses for the use of all the patients; I could not, therefore, 'know whether the shifts were used from the number supplied;' neither was it possible for me to ascertain from the Laundry lists that any of the patients slept without night-dresses, as there were washed every week many more than one for each patient in the basement Gallery.

"The conclusions drawn in the last part of this extract, of my 'imperfect and not very frequent visits to this part of the Hospital,' and of my 'never seeing these patients after their being placed in their beds at night,' are incorrect, and opposed to my general practice, which was to visit the wards 'from seven in the morning till ten at night'—see my evidence (471). The very delicate, and at times, dangerous, state of my health during the two last years, and especially during the winter months, has naturally led to my nightly visits being less frequent than formerly, but they have never been entirely discontinued, or omitted, save from illness, or absence in the country for the benefit of my health.

"Extract—Page 8.

"There is much reason to fear that practices have prevailed in some of the wards which indicate the existence of great harshness and violence on the part of some of the attendants, and are in themselves utterly unjustifiable. We allude more particularly to the practice alleged to have been resorted to, of laying down the females, who were dirty, on the stone floor of the gallery naked, and washing their persons with cold water and a mop; and to the violent and offensive mode in which food appears to have been forced upon some of those who obstinately refused to take it voluntarily.'

"No human being could, by any amount of vigilance, prevent those abuses which will occasionally arise, not in Lunatic Establishments alone, but in every Institution; it is consequently reasonable to admit that some harsh expression or unkindly action,

on the part of an Attendant, may have occurred unknown to any officer in the Hospital.

“ ‘As far as regards myself, I can only affirm, that no complaint, however trivial, made to me at any time by a patient, has been disregarded ; and from the friendly and affectionate terms which have been maintained between the female patients and myself, I may fairly conclude, that had any serious cause for complaint existed, I should have been informed of it.

“ ‘With respect to the alleged practice of mopping the patients, I appeal to this charge as an evidence of the unfairness and prejudice which pervades the whole Report. Only one witness speaks of it, one who had been a patient and confined in the same department where this alleged practice prevailed. She does not pretend to say she was ever subjected to it. There is not one tittle of corroboration of this statement by any other witness ; it is, on the contrary, distinctly denied by several ; and yet, with this weight of evidence against an unsupported statement, the Commissioners eagerly adopt it, and rely upon it in their Report.

“ Had the practice referred to existed, it must have come to my knowledge, because I frequently visited the basement-gallery during the operation of washing and bathing the patients, and I invariably found the Attendants kind and considerate in the performance of their duty on these occasions, nor did any patient ever complain to me of having been washed in the manner alluded to.

“ That the process of bathing or washing a mischievous or violent patient, is not always a very peaceable operation, will be duly acknowledged by the experienced, and admitted by the reasonable ; it may therefore be expected that occasional resistance on the part of a patient, and perseverance on the part of an attendant, may occasion a struggle, which it would be unjust to stigmatize with the name of cruelty.

“ There is, in the galleries, an abundant supply of warm water for the washing of all the patients, and it is invariably used in the basement gallery.

“ In the other galleries, the patients who are in good bodily health, are at liberty to wash themselves during the summer

months in cold water, if they wish to do so; but they can always be supplied with warm water, if they desire it.

“I am quite confident that the mopping of patients has not been a practice in the Hospital, and I believe that it never occurred in a single instance.

“With regard to the mode of administering food to patients ‘who obstinately refused to take it voluntary,’ I may observe, that I was frequently present during such occasions, having assisted at them myself, and that no instance of inhumanity on the part of an attendant ever came under my observation, nor did I ever receive a complaint upon the subject from any patient.

“EXTRACTS.

“From the statement of Miss F. M.’s evidence, in the case of her sister, Miss A. M. (Page 22).

“‘Ultimately, in consequence of her (Miss F. M.’s) sister’s complaints of ill-treatment, and of her general appearance, Miss F. M. decided upon removing her, and, in fact, did remove her from the Hospital.’

“The ostensible cause of the patient’s removal is thus stated in the evidence of the Treasurer (116).

“‘She was brought into the Institution, and shortly after a request was made that she should be permitted to sign a legal document, to which I objected. I would not consent on any consideration to allow her to sign any document: the object being to obtain money for her through such signature, and I would not consent to it; and her friends suggested that it would be better to remove her, and take apartments, and obtain her signature. I said I would have nothing whatever to do with it; if they removed her, they might do so, but I would not permit her to sign any paper while she was there.

“‘An application was shortly afterwards made for her removal, on the ground that change of air would be beneficial for her, and she was taken away. Certainly no complaint was made, on the part of her friends, of her treatment.’

“This statement is confirmed by the Apothecary. (339).

“ ‘ Q. Did you hear anything about somebody wanting Miss Morley to sign a deed?’

“ ‘ A. Yes, her sister came to me, I think, two or three times on the subject. We had a long talk about how it was to be done. I told her I could not consent while she was there; there was great doubt of the legality of such a step; besides, I did not think she could sign anything in that state of mind.’

“ Extract—Page 23.

“ ‘ She (Miss A. M.) was placed, in the first instance, in the receiving-ward, but removed in about a fortnight (on the plea of her being a dirty patient) to the basement ward. This was done by the sole direction of the Matron, who, it appears, has the power of removing and classifying the female patients, without the intervention of any of the Medical Officers.’

“ Sir A. Morison says, in 1,277—

“ ‘ It is a general order that dirty patients be placed in the basement.’

“ Dr. Wood, the Apothecary, says, in 329—

“ ‘ She (Miss A. M.) was always very dirty.’

“ And Dr. Monro, in answer to questions respecting Miss A. M., says (1,086)—

“ ‘ I found her quite intractable.’

“ ‘ 1,088—Q. She was afterwards removed to the basement?’

“ ‘ A. Yes.’

“ ‘ 1,089—Q. Do you know by whose order?’

“ ‘ A. I cannot tell.’

“ ‘ 1,090—Q. Not by yours?’

“ ‘ A. No, not by mine: but I saw the propriety of it, or I should have spoken out about it. I saw that she ought to be classified with those cases.’

“ ‘ 1,091—Q. Do you think the basement a fit place for a person in her state of health?’

“ ‘ A. Yes; because I might say that one-third of the cases in the basement are just in that painful feeble condition moving about. I thought it a very suitable case for the basement when I saw her there.’

I append the following paragraph from the General Rules:—

“‘5. CLASSIFICATION.—The Patients are to be distributed into five classes, viz.’—

“‘No. 1, BASEMENT WARD.—The first Class—Patients who are in an excited or mischievous state, or who have no regard to cleanliness.’

“‘Extract—Page 22.

“‘The account given by Miss F. M. is corroborated by the patient’s own evidence, taken on oath after she was perfectly recovered (both mentally and bodily).’

“‘This assertion is founded upon Dr. Nesbitt’s report of Miss A. M., which report is not confirmed by the state of the patient’s mind in July, 1851, when she gave evidence before the Commissioners, who candidly note.

“‘Note by the Visiting Commissioners who took the examination.

“‘As this witness is still in a nervous and excitable state, she was not sworn in the first instance. Ultimately, however, she expressed her willingness to swear to the truth of what she had stated, and she was sworn accordingly. She, however, declined having her evidence read over to her,’ &c.

“‘It, therefore appears that Miss A. M. gave her evidence at a time when she was far from well; her statements ought, therefore, to be received with hesitation, and I can only state that I never saw this patient subjected to any unkindness, and I never received a complaint of ill-treatment either from her, or from any of her relations or friends.

“‘With respect to the Polka jacket, which I am alleged to have said the patient ‘could not be allowed to wear, as it was too smart,’ I have not the slightest recollection of such a circumstance having ever occurred, although I have sometimes advised the friends of dirty or mischievous patients to provide their relatives with warm and durable clothing, in preference to articles more showy and more destructible. This I have done in consideration both of the comfort of the patients and the pecuniary circumstances of their

friends, such articles being very liable to be destroyed; but no article of needful or desirable apparel has ever, with my sanction, been refused for the use of any patient.

“EXTRACTS FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE OF MISS H. H.

“ ‘ This lady appears to have been admitted into Bethlem Hospital on the 4th of April last, to have been discharged on the 18th of the same month (after a residence therein of fourteen days only), and to have died in three days after her discharge.’

“ ‘ At the time of her admission, it is stated by the Medical practitioner, who had previously attended her, that her limbs were firm, and that although thin, she had the average amount of flesh and strength for an invalid; but she occasionally refused her food, had two or three times been subjected to mechanical restraint, and for two or three days previously to her admission had fallen into dirty habits. Her father also states, that on her admission her health was ‘ pretty good, and that she was gaining flesh.’ ‘ On her discharge, her condition, according to her father’s account, was exceedingly changed for the worse;’ and according to the statement of his medical attendant, Mr. Taylor, ‘ her appearance was much altered, being very emaciated, her bones almost protruding through her skin, and on her body were various wounds and bruises.’ ”
The statement subsequently continues—

“ After her death, in consequence of some complaints made by the father, her person was inspected on the following day by Mr. Lawrence and Sir Alexander Morison (two of the Medical Officers of Bethlem Hospital) and a *post mortem* examination was afterwards made by two surgeons, who, together with Dr. Wood, who came in before the examination was completed, signed a medical certificate, stating, ‘ that there was no evidence to show that she had sustained any injury which could in any way have hastened her death.’ ”

“ In consequence of some complaints made by the father of this patient, as to his daughter’s treatment whilst in the Hospital, an inquiry into the case was instituted, before a Committee of Governors.’

“‘The Governors have not, it is said, signified otherwise than they were satisfied with the facts that came out in the course of the investigation,’ &c.

“ Upon the combined evidence of Sir A. Morison, Dr. Wood, the Apothecary, and myself, Miss H. H. is shown to have been admitted into the Hospital in a very weak and emaciated state, and, owing to her exceedingly dirty habits, she was placed at once in the ward appropriated by General Rules, (Page 92,) to such patients.

“ She was an object of pity and sympathy, both with Officers and Attendants, and until my absence, caused by indisposition, during the last few days of her residence in the Hospital, I watched the case with deep interest; and can, from personal observation, solemnly affirm that I never saw any sick person more kindly and humanely treated. Dr. Wood, also, throughout the whole of his evidence, perseveres in stating his impression that the patient ‘was treated with the utmost possible kindness.’

“ I subjoin the *post mortem* certificates.

“ ‘ Bridewell Hospital,

“ ‘ 22d April, 1851,

“ ‘ One o’Clock, P.M.

“ ‘ By desire of the Treasurer of Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals, I have just examined the body of Hannah Hyson, late a patient in Bethlem Hospital. I found several superficial bruises on different parts of her body, and redness and tendency to excoriation about the nates, none of them at all connected with the cause of her death, which was occasioned by general paralysis. The causes I consider to be accidental, and in no way to be attributed to want of care and kindness.

“ ‘ ALEXANDER MORISON, M.D.’

“ ‘ Whitehall Place, April 22d, 1851.

“ ‘ Dear Sir,

“ ‘ I have inspected the body of the young woman lately discharged from Bethlem, now lying at 44, Hill Street, Walworth,

and could see nothing leading to the conclusion, or even the suspicion, that she had met with ill-usage before death; there had been no open sore at the time of death; the buttocks were red and slightly excoriated from having been wetted with urine, as generally happens in dirty patients, and the hips were in a nearly similar state, the bones having become very prominent, in consequence of the patient's considerable emaciation, and the skin having consequently been fretted by the position of the body, and probably by the restlessness of the patient; there were four or five brownish and quite dry marks where the skin had been probably excoriated, principally on the legs; and there was a very faint bruise mark near one of these. The surrounding skin in all these situations was of its natural pale colour. Such appearances, and probably to a greater extent, would almost inevitably be found on the body of a patient who had been in a violent state for two or three weeks before death.

“ ‘ I remain, my dear Sir,

“ ‘ Yours very faithfully,

“ ‘ J. E. Johnson, Esq.’ ”

“ ‘ WM. LAWRENCE.’ ”

“ ‘ April 23, 1851.

“ ‘ Examination of the Body of Hannah Hyson.

“ ‘ Body emaciated; some superficial abrasions on the surface of the lower extremities, probably owing to the scratching or the picking of the skin; slight ecchymosis under back part of scalp; a small chronic abscess in the integument of the right side of head, apparently connected with an old wound, the scar of which was obvious, but must have healed some months.

“ ‘ On removing the calvarium the arachnoid was found universally opaque, the pia mater loaded with serum, the ventricles considerably distended with fluid, capable of holding from two to three ounces each. Nothing further morbid observed in the brain, which was of average firmness. Some fluid remained in the case of the skull after the brain was removed; the lungs were healthy; some old adhesion existed in the left pleura; heart rather flabby; abdominal viscera healthy.

“ We are of opinion that the death of the deceased was clearly referable to the disease observed within the skull, which had existed some months, and there was no evidence to show that she had sustained any injury, which could in any way have hastened her death.

“ ‘ Wm. Wood, M. D., Licentiate of the Royal
“ ‘ College of Physicians.

“ ‘ Frederick Augustus Crisp, M.R.C.S. and L.A.C.

“ ‘ Charles Taylor, M.R.C.S. and L.A.C.’

“ The above reports, involving the professional character of the parties whose names are appended, ought to remove all doubt upon so painful a subject, particularly as in no part of the evidence is the charge of ‘ harsh and improper usage’ substantiated; on the contrary, there is a large amount of evidence to prove that Miss H. H. received no common share of kindness and attention during the short period of her stay in Bethlem Hospital.”

“ CASE OF MRS. ELINOR W.

“ Page 31—During the time this patient remained in the basement-ward, her habits, disposition, and violent conduct were such that great caution would have been necessary in receiving any statement from her. The few complaints which she made to me could not be verified by any other patient, notwithstanding the pains I took to investigate them. I may, therefore, be excused for expressing some doubt whether any importance can be attached to such conjectural evidence, especially when unsupported by a single witness.”

“ The case of Miss M. E. W. requires no comment, the Commissioners having given the following—(Page 32):—

“ ‘ On examining this patient herself, it must be observed that the answers given by her to our questions did not bear out the statements of her mother and Elinor W. Mary Elizabeth W.’s recollection and general intellect were, however, in so feeble and

imperfect a state at the time of her appearance before us, that we did not think it proper to question her to the extent we should have done had she appeared more competent to give evidence on the subjects of our inquiry.'

" I must, however, allude to the alleged circumstance of my standing beside this patient in the committee-room on the day of her discharge, to prevent her from making any complaints. It is a part of the Matron's duties to accompany the female patients into the committee-room on the day of their discharge, and remain beside them, certainly more with a view to facilitate complaints than to retard or prevent them ; the latter being an object which I have never attempted to accomplish, having rather encouraged the patients to express their sentiments openly, and without reservation.

" In the summing-up of the Commissioner's Report, the following charge occurs, page 34 :—

" ' 8th—That the duties of the Matron are very much neglected, and that she has very improperly vested in her the power of classifying the female patients, of employing them, and determining in which wards they shall be placed, without the sanction of any of the Medical Officers.'

" The insufficient grounds upon which these assertions are made are fully borne out by my remarks and explanations in the foregoing report.

" I have caused every direction of the medical officers to be scrupulously observed ; and I have, during the period of my matronship in Bethlem Hospital, performed double the amount of duty assigned to me by the Rules of the Institution, but my arduous and responsible duties have been readily and cheerfully fulfilled, because circumstances rendered my services essential to the credit of the Hospital, and the comfort of the female patients.

" Perhaps I may be excused for stating here some of the alterations suggested, and improvements introduced by me on the female side—alterations and improvements which were most readily acceded to by the Governors, and ordered to be carried into effect as soon as practicable :—

“ 1st. Religious service daily in every gallery, but the refractory.

“ 2d. The removal of several restraint chairs.

“ 3d. The removal of eight large iron gates from the galleries.

“ 4th. The introduction of ordinary beds in the front basement ward, instead of loose straw, which had been the previous practice: and the substitution of a wooden floor for stone pavement, thereby materially increasing the warmth and comfort of the ward.

“ 5th. Building a new work-room and parlour for convalescent patients.

“ 6th. Having an airing-ground laid out as a flower garden for ditto.

“ 7th. Introduction of a pianoforte for ditto.

“ 8th. Introduction of bagatelle and pope-joan boards, and materials for drawing and painting for ditto.

“ 9th. Introduction of a select library for ditto.

“ 10th. Introduction of fancy works and straw plaiting.

“ 11th. A large increase of general employment throughout the galleries.

“ The above facts will prove that I have, with the kind assistance of the Governors, been an active agent in carrying out their philanthropic views for the amelioration of the condition of the insane; and that I have studied to act, with a faithful and an upright heart, the part assigned me—even to the sacrifice of my health and domestic comfort.

“ In conclusion, I cannot refrain from mentioning that, although the Commissioners' Report does not contain the slightest charge of unkindness, harshness, or severity against myself personally—still, the unexpected and undeserved accusation of neglect in any part of my duty, has, by further undermining my already injured health, accelerated my resignation of the office of *Maitron* to Bethlem Hospital.

“ I make no comment on the partial and prejudiced course adopted in the progress of this inquiry, the assumption of statements, the leading questions to witnesses, the evident disappointment of the Commissioners when they failed to extract the description of evidence they desired, or the brow-beating of the

witnesses. You, Gentlemen, who have read the evidence, will have noticed all this, and more, but I cannot believe that it is consistent with the ordinary practice of common justice for any person to be persecuted as I have been; and my reputation, which was my all, assailed by witnesses behind my back; or that I should be examined and harassed upon evidence taken in my absence, and which I was not even allowed to see and answer. No reputation, no honesty of purpose, no zeal or anxiety can stand against such a revival of the Inquisition; it is foreign to English habits of justice, and must be abhorrent to every honourable mind.

“It is to be regretted that the Commissioners, in their zeal for the insane, should have so totally disregarded the character and feelings of one who has devoted above twenty-two years of her life to the service of the mentally afflicted—and whose conscientious discharge of her duty during that protracted period, might at least be expected to protect her from misrepresentation, even should it fail to procure for her commendation.

“I am,

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“Your obliged and faithful Servant,

“H. HENRIETTA HUNTER.”

Letter from Sir Alexander Morison, one of the Physicians of the Hospital;—

“To the President, the Treasurer, and the Governors of Bethlem Hospital.

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“On the 1st of May instant, I received the following notice from your Clerk, That at a General Quarterly Court of Governors held at the Hospital of Bridewell, on Monday, the 26th day of April last, it was Resolved—‘That *in order to give effect to the chief recommendation in the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy*

to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on Bethlem Hospital, it is expedient that a Resident Physician of eminence be appointed to Bethlem Hospital, who shall have paramount authority therein, subject always to the control of the Governors.'

"Having, therefore, in consequence of such Resolution, full reason to believe that the said Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy contains statements, more especially as regards myself, which may have led the Governors to form an unfavourable opinion on the subject, I addressed a Letter to the President, and to the Treasurer of the Hospital, on the 25th day of February last, as follows:—

" 'I have seen a *printed* paper purporting to be a Report from the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Home Secretary of State, and signed 'Shaftesbury.'

" 'In it I find assertions respecting my conduct, as one of your Physicians, calculated to injure me in your estimation, and in that of the public.

" 'As these assertions are unfounded, I beg respectfully to have a *strict enquiry* into the manner in which I have performed the duties of Physician to your noble Institution, during the seventeen years I have had the honour to occupy the situation, in order to refute the misrepresentations respecting myself contained in the said Report.'

"No notice having been taken of this Letter, and serious injury having been done to my character (which has been much increased since an article entitled 'Bethlem Hospital,' appeared in the newspapers of 29th April), I sent to the President, and to the Treasurer, a copy of the accompanying Letter, addressed by me to the Commissioners in Lunacy, on the 23rd day of March.

"The consideration of these Letters was inserted in the *printed* notices to form a part of the business of the General Court, summoned for the 26th of April, but it appears that they were passed over, which is to be regretted, as the Governors before passing a Resolution of such importance, and which is now brought before them this day to be confirmed, might have been pleased to have

allowed time to consider the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, and the Evidence on which they have founded that Report, which I am informed does not bear out the inferences which they have drawn. Or, if the Report and Evidence are not before the Governors, that they would order the *strict enquiry* earnestly requested by me in my letter to the President and to the Treasurer on the 25th of February.

“In consequence of my Letter of that date having been passed over at the Meeting of the General Court on the 26th of April, I addressed a few lines to the President, the Treasurer, and the General *Committee* of 3rd May instant, begging their earnest consideration of the same.

“On Saturday last, the 8th instant, a letter was addressed to the Physicians of Bethlem Hospital, referring them to the Home Secretary of State for copies of the Report, and Evidence of the Commissioners in Lunacy, ‘the chief recommendation in which it is proposed to give effect to by the Resolution above quoted:’ at the same time expressing their desire to receive any statement the Physicians may wish to submit to them, to which they will give their best consideration.

“I therefore respectfully and earnestly request that I may, in conjunction with my colleague, Dr. Monro, have a reasonable time to consider the subject, and be allowed an opportunity of answering whatever evidence may have been given, and statements to our prejudice.

“I have the honour to be,

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“Your most obedient Servant,

“26, Cavendish Square,

“ALEX. MORISON.”

“10th May, 1852.

APPENDIX C.

Correspondence between the Treasurer and the Commissioners in Lunacy :—

“ Bridewell Hospital,

“ Gentlemen,

“ April 14, 1852.

“ I have seen your Report to the Right Honorable Sir George Grey, Bart. &c., &c., on Bethlem Hospital, in which there are statements respecting myself of which I feel I have much reason to complain.

“ The following are of this class.

“ EXTRACTS.

“ ‘ 1. On one occasion, indeed, he (referring to myself,) seems to have assigned to the Matron, in our opinion very injudiciously, the very important power of classifying, employing, and generally of managing and arranging the female patients without reporting such alteration to the Committee, or obtaining their sanction thereto.’

“ ‘ 2. His (the Apothecary’s) powers and duties of classification, &c., conferred on him by the Rules, have, so far as they relate to the females been recently transferred to the Matron by the verbal direction of the Treasurer.’

“ ‘ 3. These are amongst the duties intrusted to her (the Matron,) in addition to the power of classifying and employing the female patients lately transferred to her by the Treasurer, as already referred to, and which she now exercises quite independently of the Medical Officers of the Institution.’

“ ‘ 4. They (the Rules) vest, we think, most injudiciously, in the Matron the duty of classifying and employing the female patients, and determining in what wards they shall from time to time be placed, according to her sole direction, and to the practical exclusion of all medical authority.’

“ In connection with this statement is the following, which is given as a foot note :—

“ ‘ By the printed Rules, this duty belonged to the Resident Medical Officer, from whom the Treasurer, about a year ago, transferred it, by a mere verbal direction, to the Matron.’

“ ‘5. That the Treasurer has, without due authority, taken from the Resident Medical Officer the duties of classifying the female patients, of regulating their employment, and determining in what wards they shall be placed, and has injudiciously invested the Matron with this power.’

“ No one, in my opinion, can read these statements without coming to the immediate conclusion, that an important duty previously belonging entirely to the Resident Apothecary, has been recently transferred from him to the Matron, who, prior to the date of the transfer, had no authority of the kind.

“ Such a conclusion, I submit, however, would be exceedingly erroneous.

“ In the Rules of the Hospital, a copy of which I placed in your hands, you will find (page 114, No. 12,) that the Apothecary is ‘to regulate, in the absence of the Physicians, the classification, employment, amusement, and general management of the patients.’

“ It is obvious, therefore, that these duties, primarily and substantially belong to the Physicians, and not to the Apothecary; and the latter can have, therefore, no greater authority on this subject, in the absence of the former than they themselves have by the Rules, which is (page 110, No. 11) that they are ‘to recommend Patients for employment, occupation, and amusement, either in the Hospital garden, airing-courts, or work-rooms.’

“ The Rule (page 114, No. 13) immediately following that which gives the Apothecary power to regulate, in the absence of the Physicians, the classification, &c., provides that he shall ‘direct, in conjunction with the Steward, that every male patient, and in conjunction with the Matron, that every female patient, for whom employment would be beneficial, be supplied with suitable means of occupation.’

“ This qualifies very materially the power, given in the preceding Rule, to the Apothecary, and, I doubt not, was intended to have that effect.

“ By Rule 7, p. 123, the Matron is required ‘to distribute the patients in their sleeping apartments, so that each female attendant may have a proper number of those who are fit to work to

assist her, and to employ such of the patients at their needle, or otherwise, as are capable.'

"By this Rule an extensive power of classifying and employing patients is conferred on the Matron.

"You admit, in enumerating the duties of the Apothecary, that he is to regulate, in the absence of the Physicians, the classification, &c., but in the statements you have made respecting my interference in this matter, you have, I respectfully submit, neither sufficiently adverted to this limitation; nor to the further limitation, that the Apothecary is to direct employment for the female patients in conjunction with the Matron; nor to the fact, that the Matron has always had, by the Rules, an extensive power of classifying and employing female patients, irrespective of the Apothecary.

"The more I reflect on this subject, the more I am convinced that by the direction I gave, for the purpose of obtaining a larger amount of occupation for the female patients, and which had the desired effect, I did not extend in the least the powers of the Matron, but only required her to do that which clearly was her duty; neither did I diminish much, if at all, from the very limited powers of the Apothecary, who, I beg of you to observe, was required, 'to regulate in the absence of the Physicians,' and not to direct the classification, &c. This direction of mine, I feel it due to myself to remark, had no reference whatever to the Physicians, whose duties remained unaltered and in as much force as at any preceding period.

"I trust I have stated sufficient to satisfy you that your frequently-repeated assertion, that the duties of classifying and employing the female patients belonged, by the printed Rules, to the Apothecary, and had been recently transferred from him to the Matron by the mere verbal direction of the Treasurer, should not have been made.

"I therefore proceed to other inaccuracies contained in your Report.

Extract :—

" 'The diet of the Patients, together with much of the internal economy and comfort of the Institution, appear to be under his influence (the Treasurer's).'

“ Much of this statement is too general to admit of a reply. So far as it is specific, it is incorrect. The provisions of the Hospital are inspected weekly by the Sub-committee ; and the diet of the healthy patients is regulated by the diet-table, which was prepared some time since, and considered by the Sub-Committee, the Committee, and many of the Officers of the Hospital, after which it was approved and adopted by the General Court of Governors. The diet of the sick patients is entirely at the discretion of the Medical Officers.

Extract :—

“ ‘ He (the Steward) formerly had control over the male Attendants, who are now, however, properly placed, by some verbal regulation of the Treasurer, under the management of the Resident Medical Officer.’

“ I beg to state, that I never made any verbal regulation on this subject. The power of the Steward to control male Attendants was terminated by the introduction, a short time since, of new Rules, having reference to the duties of all the subordinate Officers.

“ These Rules were carefully considered by the Sub-Committee, the Committee, and the Officers of the Hospital, before they were adopted by the General Court. They confirm to the Matron the control over the female Attendants. A Copy of them I placed in your hands.

Extract :—

“ ‘ This practice (referring to the bedding of some of the Patients) which has prevailed for years, has gone on without challenge from, and even (as is stated) without the knowledge of the Treasurer, the Physicians, the Resident Apothecary, &c.’

“ I am mentioned here, I submit, very gratuitously. In my examination before you, I was not asked a single question, and did not make a single statement respecting the bedding ; indeed, I had no opportunity of doing more than answering the questions you put to me. I cheerfully attended at your office, to render the best assistance in my power, in the investigation of a charge made against the female attendants at Bethlem of having treated some

of the patients unkindly. I left your presence with the impression that the subjects of your inquiry were, to a considerable extent, charges against myself.

Extract:—

“ ‘ A considerable number of additional regulations and usages, more or less important, and some of them materially modifying the previously existing practice, have also been introduced at various times, (occasionally on the sole authority of the Treasurer), and have acquired the force of rules and orders, although they have not been reduced to writing, and have never formally received the sanction of the governing body.’

“ This is a very strong statement, but so general as to preclude any but a general reply. So far as it relates to myself, I beg to remark, that with the exception of my direction respecting the greater employment of female patients, I have no recollection of having ever given any order, or made any regulation not entirely in conformity with the words or spirit of the Rules under which the Hospital is conducted; and with regard to the exception just mentioned, which is the only exception I can admit, I feel that the course I pursued may, with much greater propriety be considered as the interpretation and harmonizing of existing Rules than as the introduction of a new one.

“ I confine myself in this communication to those statements in your Report which refer to myself individually, and which, I submit, will be generally considered as imputing blame. I cannot remove from my mind the painful sense I entertain of the injustice you have done me, in forwarding statements to my prejudice to one of Her Majesty’s Principal Secretaries of State, in a Report founded on evidence taken, with the exception of my own examination, in my absence; the nature of the charges, as against myself having never been communicated to me; and no opportunity having been afforded me of seeing or cross-examining your informants, and afterwards of calling witnesses, or of being heard in my defence.

“ The copy of my evidence, forwarded to the Secretary of State, contains some errors. It would have afforded me great pleasure to have corrected them, if an opportunity of doing so had been

granted to me, as appears to have been the case with another Governor of the Hospital whom you examined.

“When I consider the nature of many of the questions you put to me, and the severe manner in which they were put, I am led to the inference, that prior to my examination you had received information which induced you to entertain an unfavourable opinion of the manner in which I had performed my duties.

“I trust I am not taking too great a liberty in requesting to be informed if such were the case.

“I have the honour to be,

“Gentlemen,

“Your very obedient Servant,

“JOHN EDWARD JOHNSON,

“Treasurer of Bridewell and

“Bethlem Hospitals.”

“The Commissioners }
in Lunacy.” }

“Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,

“19, New Street,

“Spring Gardens,

“12th May, 1852.

“Sir,

“Your letter of the 14th ulto. has been under the consideration of the Board, I am now directed to state to you, that the Commissioners must decline entering into any Correspondence relative to the observations contained in their Report to Secretary Sir George Grey, which, it may be observed, was accompanied by a Copy of the short-hand writer’s Notes of the Evidence taken before the Board.

“I remain,

“Sir,

“Yours faithfully,

“R. W. S. LUTWIDGE,

“Secretary.”

“J. E. Johnson, Esq.,

“Bridewell Hospital.”

“ Bridewell Hospital,
“ May 17th, 1852.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I have received from your Secretary a letter acquainting me that you decline entering into any correspondence relative to the observations contained in your Report of Sir George Grey on Bethlem Hospital, and informing me that such Report was accompanied by a copy of the short-hand writer's notes of the evidence taken before you. You are aware that I have seen the evidence, I have therefore only now to remonstrate against the mode in which the evidence was taken as being un-English in its character and at variance with those constitutional principles which are recognised and respected in this country. Under such a system the fair fame and professional reputation of any man may be deeply injured. I reserve to myself the right of publishing my letters to you and your reply, and it is my intention to forward a copy of them immediately to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Gentlemen,

“ Your very obedient Servant,

“ JOHN EDWARD JOHNSON,

“ The Commissioners
in Lunacy.”

“ Treasurer of Bridewell and
“ Bethlem Hospitals.

“ Sir,

“ I feel it right to place in your hands the accompanying Copies of Letters that have passed between the Commissioners in Lunacy and myself relative to their Report to Sir George Grey on Bethlem Hospital.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your very obedient servant,

“ JOHN EDWARD JOHNSON,

“ Treasurer of Bridewell and

“ Bethlem Hospitals.

“ The Right Honourable
“ Spencer H. Walpole,
“ Secretary of State.” }
}

APPENDIX D.

30th July, 1851.

EVIDENCE OF MISS A. M. AND MISS F. M.

MISS A. M. STATED—

That she could not remember how long she was in the receiving ward. Remembered the basement, and her first impression was a feeling of cold. (She continued.) I had always had insufficient bedding, and sometimes none at all, only the straw, and I had to get under the straw to try and get warm, and cover myself. Sometimes I had a sort of oilskin or India-rubber cover. I had no night-clothing whatever. I begged hard to be allowed to keep my flannel waistcoat, as I had always been used to it; but the nurse said it was against the Rules, and took it away during the night. I slept quite naked. I always suffered from cold whilst in the basement, both night and day. In the morning the nurse used to open the door of the cell, and call out, "M., get up." Sometimes I was very ill, and so stiff with cold that I could hardly rise, and I could not dress myself, and the nurse and another patient used to dress me, but always very roughly. I was covered with sores. I thought the bones would come through the skin. When I crept under the straw to try and get warm, I came upon the bottom of the bed, which I think was stone. I think that caused the sores on my hips.

The bathing and washing were very coarse. I was taken to a sink, and washed with a wet towel that had been used for a great many other patients, with cold water. The nurses were all very coarse and rude. They nicknamed the patients, and used to call me Black Sall.

Note by the Visiting Commissioners who took the Examination.

As this witness is still in a nervous and excitable state, she was not sworn in the first instance. Ultimately, however, she expressed her willingness to swear to the truth of what she had stated, and she was sworn accordingly. She, however, declined hearing her evidence read over to her. She expressed very great anxiety that her case should not be made public.

On one occasion I would not eat, and I was thrown on the ground, and the food forced down my throat—by two nurses. If ever I complained, the nurses told me to hold my tongue, for I was a pauper, like the rest, and the treatment was good enough for me. I was too ill to complain to Dr. Wood and Mrs. Hunter, and I saw them very little. They used to come round, but they only looked at us generally. Dr. Wood hardly ever spoke to me. I hardly think he knew I was present sometimes. He never looked at my tongue, or felt my pulse, or examined me medically: he only took the report of the nurses.

30th July, 1851.

MISS F. M. SWORN.

Miss A. M., my eldest sister, was a patient in Bethlehem Hospital: she was admitted on the 6th of October, 1850. At that time she was in weak bodily health, and for ten days previously she had refused her food. I examined her person. She had a bruise on her arm from a fall, but no other marks or injuries. I took my sister to the Hospital: it was on a Sunday. I did not see the ward into which she was placed; but I understood it was the ground-floor, not the basement. Two nurses took charge of her. I never saw the Matron the whole time my sister was at Bethlehem. I next saw my sister on the following Friday, the Committee day. I met her on the landing of the staircase. She had a black eye, but she did not accuse any person of having caused it. I only had a few words with her. She had been before the Committee, and I went before them afterwards; nothing particular occurred. I next saw her on the 4th November, when I learnt that my sister had been removed to the basement, as her habits were dirty. She was brought to me in the visitors' room. She then complained to me of excessive cold; and when I asked her as to what sort of bed she had, she exclaimed, "Oh, none at all; I sometimes have a covering, and sometimes I have none." She said the cover was a kind of India-rubber cover; but that she had neither blankets nor sheets, and loose straw to lie on. She said, also, that once when she was dirty, in the middle of the night, two nurses came to her, and took her out of her cell, and gave her a

cold shower-bath ; and that she then pushed her back into her cell without wiping or drying her at all. She also said that she had, on one occasion, been obliged to get up and wash her own linen, which she had dirtied. She complained that the nurses were very rough and rude, and abused her, and said she was a dirty beast ; and they called her "Black Sall." One of the nurses once said she would kick her out of bed if she did not get up, and used other very coarse language, which I do not like to repeat. After that I again saw my sister, on either the 3rd or 4th of December : it was the regular visiting day, the first Tuesday in the month. Friends are only permitted to see patients on the regular visiting day. She then appeared to be in a most feeble and emaciated state, and she appeared altogether worse in every way. She complained of her bowels. She again complained of the cold in the cell, and the want of covering. After that I was at the Hospital, and saw one of the nurses. I cannot recollect her name, but I should know her again. When I told her my sister complained of cold she, (the nurse) said, "Oh, she is such a dirty patient, that we are obliged to pin her in her night-shift." I then said, "Then she lies on the straw naked ;" and the nurse said, "Yes, she does."

It was in consequence of my sister's complaint of treatment, added to her personal appearance, and the fact of being placed in the basement-floor, that decided me to remove her. I accordingly removed her on the 27th December, intending to take her to Southampton, but she was so ill, that I took her to a lodging near Bethlehem. I then examined her person. I found that her back was a complete mass of sore, with two large sores of about the size of a crown-piece, one on each hip : they were deep sores, and she will carry the marks of them to the grave. I saw no bruises. She was very much emaciated,—much more than at the time of her admission to Bethlehem,—and her legs were very much swollen. She had, besides, other physical diseases, and was very much disordered in her bowels. On the following day I took my sister down to Northampton. Previously she was examined by two medical men, who signed the certificates. My sister was

admitted to the Northampton Asylum the same day. I then resided at Northampton, and saw my sister very frequently. In the course of a fortnight she was greatly improved in health, and her habits of cleanliness returned; her mind was also greatly improved.

I am of opinion that my sister, during the whole period of her confinement in Bethlehem, was capable of giving a true account of the treatment she received, because, in all matters which I had an opportunity of testing, I found her statements to be correct. I fully believe all she has told me.

On second thoughts, I now remember that I did once see the Matron. I had taken a warm polka jacket to the Hospital for my sister's use, as she so frequently complained of cold; but the Matron said that she could not be allowed to have it, as it was too smart.

(Signed) F. M.

APPENDIX E.

Duties, &c., of the Resident Physician, Apothecary, and Matron.

THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN, AND MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

THERE shall be a Resident Physician, who shall be a Fellow or Licentiate of the College of Physicians in London, Edinburgh, or Dublin, or a Doctor of Medicine of the University of Oxford, Cambridge, or Edinburgh, qualified to practise as a Physician.

He shall devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office; and shall not have any connexion directly or indirectly with any other Establishment for the reception of Lunatics; nor shall he professionally attend any private patient.

He shall constantly reside within the Hospital, and shall never be absent from it, on any account whatever, without previously giving charge of it to some other competent medical practitioner, to the satisfaction of the President or Treasurer, so that the Institution shall at no time be without efficient medical superintendence.

He shall never be absent from the Hospital for a night without the written consent of the President or Treasurer. An absence of a month in every year will be allowed him, provided that arrangements be made, satisfactory to the President or Treasurer, for the efficient performance of his duties during such absence.

He shall be under the control of the President, the Treasurer, the Committee, and the Bethlem Sub-Committee; and shall himself have control over all other Officers, Attendants, and Servants, in every thing pertaining to the maintenance, care, occupation, and amusement of the Patients. He shall have authority to recommend the hiring and discharge of all Attendants and Servants, and may suspend any of them for misconduct, entering a report of such suspension, with the reason thereof, in a Journal, for the information of the next Bethlem Sub-Committee, and giving immediate notice thereof to the Treasurer.

He shall be responsible for the management and condition of the Hospital, and shall superintend the whole of the medical and moral treatment of the patients, and the general arrangements of the establishment, subject to the rules of the Hospital, and the directions of the Governors.

He shall classify the Patients, and shall regulate and determine the diet of those who are sick and infirm, in such manner as he shall see fit, taking care that the particulars of such sick or extra diet be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose. He shall also from time to time examine the provisions furnished for the use of the Patients, and report to the Bethlem Sub-Committee whenever he shall consider the quality of any part of it to be unsatisfactory.

He shall carefully examine every Patient on admission, and, if requisite, on discharge; and shall cause proper entries relative thereto to be made in the Books kept for that purpose.

He shall make a daily visit to all parts of the Hospital, passing in review the whole of the Patients, Attendants, and Servants; this general visit to be independent of any special visits which, from the severity of particular cases, or for the insuring constant attention to their duties on the part of the Attendants and others, he may judge it expedient to make.

He shall make occasional visits, at uncertain times, during the night to the various Wards and Bedrooms, and shall enter in the Journal the state of the Hospital at the time of such visits, for the information of the Bethlem Sub-Committee at their next meeting. On making such visits to the department for Female Patients, he shall be accompanied by some Female Officer of the Hospital.

He shall take care that every Patient reported as requiring restraint or seclusion be immediately visited by himself or another Resident Medical Officer.

He shall take care that the Rules of the Hospital be faithfully observed, especially enforcing at all times on the Attendants and Servants the paramount importance of gentleness and kindness to the Patients.

He shall act as Physician, not only to the Patients of Bethlem, and Resident Officers and Servants, but also to all the inmates of

the House of Occupations, and shall take care that all medicines prescribed be duly dispensed and administered.

He shall investigate all complaints made to him by Patients, Attendants, or Servants, and shall report to the President, Treasurer, or Bethlem Sub-Committee, at their next meeting, such as appear to require further notice.

He shall take care that all admissions, discharges, and deaths, be duly recorded, and that the Prescription Books, Medical Journals, and Case Books, be regularly and effectively kept, and presented to the Bethlem Sub-Committee every week; such cases as are completed being previously signed by himself in testimony of his approval. Each case shall contain the following particulars, to be amplified in cases which appear to require more extended details.

First—A statement of the name, age, sex, and previous occupation of the Patient, and whether married or single.

Secondly—An accurate description of the external appearance of the Patient, when first seen after admission; of the habit of body and temperament, of the appearance of the eyes, the expression of the countenance, and any peculiarity in the physical formation, the state of the vascular and respiratory organs and of the abdominal viscera, and their respective functions; of the state of the pulse, tongue, skin, &c.

Thirdly—A description of the phenomena of mental disorder which characterize the case; the manner and period of the attack; with a minute account of the symptoms, and the changes produced in the Patient's temper or disposition; specifying whether the malady displays itself by any, and what illusions, or by irrational conduct, or morbid or dangerous habits or propensities; whether it has occasioned any failure of memory or understanding; or is connected with epilepsy, hemiplegia, or symptoms of general paralysis, such as tremulous movements of the tongue, defect of articulation, or weakness, or unsteadiness of gait.

Fourthly—Every particular which can be obtained respecting the previous history of the patient; what are believed to have been the predisposing and exciting causes of the attack; what

have been his habits, whether active or sedentary, temperate, or otherwise; whether he has experienced any former attacks, and if so, at what periods; whether any of his relatives have been subject to insanity or any other cerebral disorder; and whether his present attack has been preceded by any premonitory symptoms, such as restlessness, unusual elevation or depression of spirits, or any remarkable deviation from his ordinary habits and conduct; and whether he has undergone any, and what previous treatment, or has been subject to personal restraint.

Fifthly—A statement, from time to time, of the mental and bodily condition of the patient, and of any changes which may be observed in his bodily health or in the form of his mental disease; also an accurate record of the medicines administered, and other remedies employed, with the results.

The several particulars herein required to be recorded to be set forth, not in any fixed or tabular form, but in a manner so clear and distinct, that they may admit of being easily referred to, and extracted whenever required.

He shall see that there be immediately entered in the Prescription Book an account of all medicines, wines, and spirits, prescribed and dispensed.

He shall, on the death of a Patient, report the event in writing to the next Bethlem Sub-Committee, specifying the time during which such Patient had been in the Hospital, and the apparent cause of death.

He shall, in concurrence with the Surgeon, direct post-mortem examinations to be made, when practicable, in cases that appear likely to afford information as to the nature, causes, or effects of insanity.

He shall take care, when any violent or sudden death shall occur, that immediate notice thereof be sent to the Treasurer, the Surgeon, and to the friends of the Patient; and in every case of suicide, the Attendant who had the care of the Patient shall be suspended until the next Meeting of the Bethlem Sub-Committee.

He shall take care that the friends of Patients dangerously ill be invited to visit them without delay, and to remain with them, as far as may be practicable, during the continuance of such illness.

He shall report to the Bethlem Sub-Committee, at every Meeting, the important circumstances that have occurred in the Hospital since the preceding Meeting, noticing the name of every Patient fit to be discharged, or likely to be benefited by being allowed to be absent on trial; the number of Patients in the Hospital; the number of such as are sick, with the nature of their complaints; the number, if any, of those who have been under personal restraint or in seclusion, with the cause, the nature, and the duration thereof; the number who have attended Divine Worship; and the number who have been in employment, with the nature of their occupations.

He shall take care that lists be prepared of all Patients who are suicidal, or subject to any disease or habit requiring particular attention; such lists to be delivered to the Attendants in each ward for their guidance, and to be corrected from time to time, with every change of Patients.

He shall point out to the Chaplain such Patients as he may consider capable of deriving benefit from religious instruction.

He shall allow every Patient of a religious persuasion differing from that of the Established Church, at the special request of such Patient, or of his or her friends, to be visited at reasonable times by a Minister of his or her own persuasion, whenever in his (the Physician's) opinion such visits will not be prejudicial.

He shall present Patients on leaving the Hospital cured, or on leave of absence, with such advice as he may consider best adapted to prevent the recurrence of their disease.

He shall attend all Meetings of the Bethlem Sub-Committee, to assist by his advice, and to submit for consideration the various suggestions he may from time to time think it right to make, respecting the management, exercise, amusement, employment, classification, and diet of the Patients.

He shall inspect all letters addressed to Patients, and shall give such letters or communicate the contents thereof, wholly or in part, to the Patients addressed, at his discretion. He shall also

inspect all letters written by Patients, (except those addressed to Governors,) and shall withhold such as appear to him to be objectionable. All letters so withheld shall be laid before the next Bethlem Sub-Committee.

He shall see that the Steward be made acquainted with every change that shall be made in the number of Patients in any of the Wards, in order that a corresponding change be made in the distribution of rations.

The proper care of the Patients, and the due administration of the Hospital, in accordance with the Rules, shall be his first consideration, next to which he shall use his best exertions to render the Establishment effective as a School for the study of Insanity, and the dissemination of knowledge respecting its nature, causes, and proper treatment.—To effect which

He shall admit as pupils Medical Students complying with the rules prepared for such cases; the Governors reserving to themselves the right of nominating, from the Metropolitan Hospitals, ten pupils, who shall attend gratuitously.

He shall make such regulations for their instruction, consistent with the comfort of the Patients, and the educational proceedings in the other Hospitals, as he may see fit.

The Pupils shall have the privilege of attending all post mortem examinations made in the Hospital.

He shall give, during each term, a course of Lectures, to be illustrated by the cases under consideration at the time.

He shall, at the close of each term, examine the several Pupils, and shall recommend to the Committee the most proficient of them for appointment as Clinical Clerk.

He shall prepare a Prospectus for publication (when approved by the Committee), showing the commencement and termination of the two ensuing terms, and such other particulars as shall from time to time be determined on.

He shall be assisted in the performance of his duties by a second Resident Medical Officer, who shall in all respects be under his direction.

He shall present to the General Court of Governors, at their first Meeting in every year, an Annual Report, showing the general condition of the Patients, and the state and management of the Hospital during the preceding year.

His salary shall be £700 per Annum, exclusive of Pupils' Fees, with a Residence in the Hospital, furnished with planned and fitted furniture, and an annual allowance of coals, not exceeding twenty tons, with a limited supply of gas.

THE APOTHECARY.

1. THERE shall be an Apothecary, who shall be a Fellow or Member of one of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons, and a Licentiate of the Company of Apothecaries.

2. He shall devote the whole of his time to the service of the Hospital, and shall not have any connection, directly or indirectly, with any other Establishment for the reception of Lunatics; nor shall he professionally attend any private patient.

3. He shall be under the control of the Resident Physician, under whose immediate direction he shall perform all his duties.

4. He shall constantly reside in the Hospital, and shall never be absent from it, on any account whatever, without the consent of the Resident Physician. An absence of a month in every year will be allowed him, provided that arrangements be made satisfactory to the Resident Physician, and the President or Treasurer, for the efficient performance of his duties during his absence.

5. He shall make up Medicines and dispense them to the Patients, and to the Resident Officers and Servants of the Hospital, and the House of Occupations, when required.

6. He shall, in the absence of the Resident Physician, and of his approved Substitute, have all the Resident Physician's authority and powers, and shall have charge of the whole Establishment, and be responsible for its proper administration, subject to the rules of the Hospital and the directions of the Governor; but it shall be his duty on such occasions to carry out, as far as may be practicable, the directions of the Resident Physician, or what may

reasonably be expected to be his wishes in the event of no directions having been given.

7. His salary shall be £300 per annum (including the Allowance from Government in respect of Criminal Lunatics, and exclusive of any part of the Pupils' Fees that may be allotted him), with a Residence in the Hospital, furnished only with planned and fitted furniture. He will also be allowed an annual supply of coals, not exceeding fifteen tons, and a limited supply of gas.

THE MATRON.

1. THERE shall be a Matron, who shall be under the control of the Resident Physician.

2. She shall not be under thirty, nor above forty-two years of age at the time of her appointment; and she shall be unmarried, or a widow not encumbered with a family.

3. She shall devote the whole of her time to the duties of her office, and shall have no connexion directly or indirectly with any other Establishment.

4. She shall reside in the Hospital, and shall never be absent from it for a night without first consulting the Resident Physician, and obtaining the consent of the President or Treasurer.

5. She shall be responsible for the prompt and accurate execution of all the directions of the Resident Physician, and under his guidance, shall embrace every opportunity for the suitable employment, amusement, and instruction of the female patients.

6. She shall spend the chief part of her time with the female patients, and shall inspect them all, and the several apartments appropriated to their use at least twice a day; her first inspection to be completed every morning by ten o'clock.

7. She shall be responsible for the neat and cleanly appearance of the female patients, and shall take care that their apartments be kept clean and free from offensive smells; that a cheerful appearance be encouraged therein, and that every defect in the repair, warming, or ventilation thereof be immediately reported.

8. She shall take care that every case of sickness and every casualty among the female patients requiring medical attention, be reported to the Resident Physician as soon as the same shall be perceived, or shall occur.

9. She shall not remove any patient or attendant from one gallery to another without the authority of the Resident Physician.

10. She shall, in common with the Resident Physician, have control over the female attendants, and shall uniformly enforce on them the constant exercise of gentleness and kindness in the performance of their duties.

11. She shall be responsible for the proper making, repairing, washing, airing, and distribution of the linen of the Hospital; she shall also be responsible for the proper clothing and bedding of the female patients.

12. She shall take stock of all the Hospital clothing, bedding, &c., in the apartments for female patients, at least once in every quarter, and enter the same in a book to be kept for that purpose, and immediately communicate the result to the Steward.

13. She shall take care that all the female attendants be faithful and diligent in the performance of their duties; that they observe the strictest propriety in their language, conduct, and demeanour, and that there be neither waste nor mismanagement in any part of the Hospital under her charge.

14. She shall investigate all complaints made to her by female patients, and shall communicate the result of her inquiry to the Resident Physician.

15. She shall keep a journal, in which she shall notice every circumstance of importance occurring in her department; such journal to be submitted to the Bethlem Sub-Committee every time it meets.

16. She shall make occasional visits at uncertain times during the night to the different apartments under her charge, and shall report to the Resident Physician, and enter in her journal, the state in which they then appeared. Such visits to be made at least twice a month.

17. She shall cause every female patient becoming dangerous or annoying to others, and not to be soothed or controlled by calmness or persuasion, to be quietly removed, and the circumstance to be immediately communicated to the Resident Physician, who alone shall have the power of imposing restraint or seclusion.

18. She shall be at liberty, as well as the Resident Physician, to inspect all letters written by female patients, unless addressed to Governors.

19. She shall take care that all clothing and every other article brought to the Hospital with female patients be properly preserved and duly returned on their discharge, or satisfactorily accounted for.

20. She shall insert in her journal any temporary absences from the Hospital, stating the hours of her departure and return.

21. Her salary shall be £150 per annum without rations, but with apartments partly furnished, ten tons of coal per annum, and a limited supply of gas.