

preëminent for restlessness, wakefulness, and noise. No difference of management can account for a trait so general as this. It can be referred only to that higher degree of irritability, which characterizes all maniacal disease on this side of the Atlantic. Besides, there is reason to believe that the proportion of patients sleeping in associated dormitories in the European hospitals, is much larger than it should be, having reference to the comfort of the patients. When the quiet of the dormitory is disturbed more or less by some uneasy inmate, every night in the year, there can be no question that this system is carried too far, and such, we are sure, is the opinion of every British superintendent, both as to the fact and to the conclusion. We fear that, abroad, this mode of lodging the patients has been determined, less by a regard to their comfort, than by a display of those *ad captandum* effects produced by long rows of snow-white beds made up with a rule-and-compass sort of accuracy, and leaving on the beholder the gratifying impression of scores of insane people sleeping together in harmony and quiet.

Dr. Manning thinks, very correctly, no doubt, that restraint is used far more in our asylums, than it is in the European, but he is not satisfied with the alleged reason, the greater violence of our patients, which, he says, is not apparent to a casual visitor. We can easily conceive that a person may get such an impression in once passing through the wards of one of our hospitals, because a single observation furnishes no means of distinguishing between the occasional and the habitual, the exceptional and the general. He suggests no reason himself for the fact, but one is left to infer that the less amount of restraint in the foreign asylums is attributable to better management. Indeed, this is the ground which the advocates of non-restraint take, ignoring differences of type and temperament, and admitting no exceptional cases. Skillful management may do much to increase the amount of comfort in an asylum, but it cannot abolish the characteristic features of insanity. Excitement, violence, depression, listlessness may be expected among the manifestations of insanity, and no arts of management, no correctness of treatment, will essentially change their proportions.

To the report are appended plans of ten different hospitals, among which we observe that of the Government Hospital at Washington.

In sending on a distant mission, in the cause of science and humanity, a person so well fitted for the purpose, the Government of New South Wales did a most wise and commendable thing. We hope that, in the same spirit, they will use the materials that have been so profusely and intelligently placed before them.

I. R.

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ART. XXXIII.—*Report of Patients treated in St. Thomas's Hospital, from 1861-1865*, 8vo. pp. 156. London: John Churchill & Sons, 1869.

This report, as we learn from the preface, "follows without interruption on that previously published." While the compilation of the report has been the work of one hand, the materials employed have been collected by no less than six persons, who have successively acted as Registrars to the Hospital. Each has done his work in his own way, and there is hence a lack of uniformity which renders the report, if not less valuable, less easy of reference.

The report is divided into parts, the first of which contains tables giving: (1) a general statement of the number of patients, medical and surgical, in the hospital during each year, with the numbers cured, relieved, etc.; (2) a summary of medical cases for each year, classed as general diseases, diseases of nervous system, etc.; (3) abstract tables of injuries, surgical diseases, etc., for the years 1861, 1862, and 1863, respectively; (4) a table of the principal diseases in the medical wards from 1861 to 1865, arranged according to the nomenclature of the Royal College of Physicians; and (5) tables showing the causes of death in fatal cases in the surgical wards for the years 1862-1865. Part 2d opens, without reference to date, with abstract histories of 40 cases of chorea,

9 of pleurodynia, 33 of epilepsy, 15 of sciatica, 37 of erysipelas, 2 of acute and 3 of chronic laryngitis, 15 of lead colic, 16 of dysentery, 6 of purpura, and 18 of eczema; very full summaries of the surgical affections treated in each year follow, and the report terminates with an Appendix on the fever epidemic of 1862, and on the treatment of rheumatism by acetæ.

As examples of the way in which the cases are recorded we may quote the following: "Chorea, 15; F.; æt. 13; ill 1 mo; 3d attack, the third within two yrs.; in hosp. 4 mos.;—Ferri Carh. c. Sacch. increased from gr. x to gr. xxv, t.d., 2 wks.; Zinci Sulph. from gr. j to gr. xx. P. Dov. gr. iij. Ext. Hyose. gr. ij. o. u., 57 d.; Liq. Pot. Ars. m. iij, bath daily, 6 d.; M. Q. c. F. 3ss, h.d., 4 d.; M. Q. c. F. 3ss, t. d., 21 d. C." [p. 26.]; and again, "1862, Diseases of bones, *Exostosis*, Fibula 2, C. Male cured was a youth æt. 16; exostosis at malleolar extremity of bone on outer side, right leg; cured by excision. Base was broad, periosteum was thick over it; size, about half a walnut; noticed 6 months. In the female the growth was from the outer and back part of the upper third of the shaft; cured by excision; size, about a walnut; noticed 4 years; æt. 18. Cellular inflammation about wound after operation." [p. 71.]

From these specimens it can readily be seen that this report contains in a condensed form an immense amount of valuable material. Candour compels us to say, however, that this material is presented neither in an attractive manner, nor in one which is adapted to facilitate its utilization.

It would not, we think, have been very difficult to combine the statistics of the five years, so as to show at once the resulting experience of the whole period; and more might have been placed in the form of tables, by which the reader could see at a glance what he might be in search of, without the labour of wading through so much small print, and so many abbreviations, which, in not a few instances, through excessive brevity, become almost enigmatical.

The book is neatly, and, considering its statistical nature, very correctly printed. We trust it may have many successors, which will be equally accurate, more convenient for reference, and more prompt in their appearance.

J. A., JR.

ART. XXXIV.—*Irritability: Popular and Practical Sketches of Common Morbid States, and Conditions bordering on Disease, with Hints for Management, Alleviation, and Cure.* By JAMES MORRIS, M.D., Loud., etc. Small 8vo. pp. xii., 114. London: John Churchill & Sons, 1868.

THIS is a very pleasantly written little book, meant for the general reader, and giving a good many useful hints as to diet and general hygiene, and as to the way in which sick people should be dealt with by those around them. The author expressly disclaims any desire to instruct his medical brethren upon the topics on which he writes, and has, we think, very judiciously avoided all reference to treatment by drugs, which are dangerous tools in the hands of the non-medical public. These conditions on the border-line between health and disease (some of which were well described fifty years ago by Marshall Hall, under the name of "The Mimosæ") are often more distressing to all parties concerned than even acute sickness, and for the management of these conditions, both doctor and friends may derive some useful hints from Dr. Morris' pages. "He laughs at scars who never felt a wound," and as the author justly observes, a physician who has never been sick himself, or who has never had to nurse some one very near and dear to him, through a long illness, has missed a very important part of his clinical education.

The following paragraph on the use of amusements contains much truth, and may serve as a specimen of the author's style:—

"The philosophy of amusements is part of the therapeutics of morbid irritability of mind. The body requires partial rest when it is not sleeping, so does the mind. Thought is more healthy and vigorous when not always bent on one set of subjects. Some find their play in a change of work, but these are few;