

certainly never contemplated the conclusion which he has drawn, however anxious I have always been, frankly and generously, to do the fullest and amplest justice to the claims of others.

I am Sir, &c.,  
Lincoln, Jan. 1851.

E. P. CHARLESWORTH, M.D.,  
Senior Physician of the Lincoln Asylum.

[LETTER FROM THE CORONER OF LINCOLN.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Controversy carried on in a spirit of fairness generally results in the public deriving the advantage.

I have, Sir, read in your journal some letters which have revived, in a useful manner, the question of the non-restraint of the insane.

The perusal of Sir Edward Ffrench Bromhead's letter occasioned much surprise, so much so, that in discussing its points, the question arose,—what object? what motive? *Cui bono?* To the two first, I will neither assume nor state an answer, because I might give a false one, or be led to attribute an unjust one; to the third, *Cui bono?* I will venture one, and for which I thank Sir Edward—viz., that he has again called public attention to so vital a subject.

The erection, on the summit of our Cliffe hill, of a spacious County Asylum, for the insane, in which, *it is said*, the system of restraint is to be carried out, gives an increased interest to the question, not as to the *originator*, but as to the *merits*, of the system.

To Mr. Hill we are much indebted for his remarkably temperate letter, in reply to Sir Edward's. We have, Sir, daily advertisers in the London press, whose advertisements are headed "The Graphiologist," and the "Original Graphiologist," which means, I believe, "your character seen in your hand-writing." I will not undertake to say what of character may be understood by the mere *mechanical* act of writing; but I can understand how, from epistolary composition, the calibre and temperament of the mind and the quality of the disposition may be judged of; and if I may be allowed an opinion, I would say that the letter of Mr. Hill displays a mind conscious that his case has a giant's power, but has also a benevolence that controls its use.

Since my residence in Lincoln, I have never heard the question mooted as to *who* was the *originator* of the mild treatment of those, the most heavily afflicted, by the destruction of their reason—that mighty *fulcrum* by which man is raised above all creation; but on its first promulgation, I frequently heard its practicability disputed, and its author, Mr. Hill, declared to be qualified for an admission patient. The great merit of being the *originator* of the *non-restraint system* was not only accorded to Mr. Hill by the senior physician to the Asylum, Dr. Charlesworth, but, to his honour will it be ever recorded, that no jealousy as to authorship ever arose; but with a vigorous mind, and with that indomitable perseverance—his *aura popularis*—he combated the opposition of his medical brethren, and overthrew the prejudices created by that opposition, until the late eminent and excellent man, Dr. Cookson, jun., accorded his *converted* conviction in its favour. But not only was the triumph of a good system over a bad one achieved, but the *fame* of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum has acquired strength in its progress.

The question of restraint or non-restraint is well worthy the attention and deep consideration of the directors or the governors of the New County Asylum; and also as a question of *expense*, worthy the attention of the *ratepayers*. Let, therefore, the matter be well thought of. Mr. Hill, in his temperate letter, has given some useful and opportune statistics, to which I would call the attention of the governors. He states that in a given period, that of patients *under restraint* sixty-five have "recovered or improved," and forty-four have died; whereas, *under non-restraint*, ninety-six have "recovered or improved," and *only eight have died!* And under the classification of suicides, I believe it is *as one hundred to nothing!*

By some it is urged, that the Lincoln Asylum being carried on on a small scale, furnishes no *positive* evidence for a general adoption of the system. Fortunately for the question, the results at Hanwell Asylum—which is much more extensive than the one now erecting in our county, under the superintendence of (as Mr. Hill justly describes him) that "great and good man," Dr. Conolly—demonstratively proves its efficacy, and that it *ought to influence* the decision of the governors of the Lincoln County Asylum.

While on the subject of *contrast*, I would wish to call public attention to another interesting and important feature in the humane system of non-restraint: evidence is not required to prove the existence of a general horror and alarm at the idea of visiting an asylum for the insane. A wall of partition, as thick as those of Troy, is erected in the public mind generally between

the sane and the insane. Not so, Sir, in the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum; for at stated periods you will see childhood, from three years to thirteen; puberty, from thirteen to twenty-one; and maturity, to eighty, mingling and co-mingling with the insane, unattended by fear, stimulated by confidence, and uniting with them in playfulness, or joining with them in amusements in the open grounds! Is this, Sir, not a happy change from confinement in the dark, dank cells, into which too many have been placed? Is it any longer a problematical question, as to the *chances* of recovery, by the enjoyment of liberty instead of the strait-waistcoat, the wrist and leg socks, &c., &c., worn under the restraint system?

As the question has been thus again brought before the public, I trust *demonstrative* measures will be taken, and that, as it is really a *national question*, legislative interference shall be demanded, to render the system of non-restraint compulsory both in public and private asylums.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES HITCHINS,

Coroner for the City and County of Lincoln.  
High-street, Lincoln, Dec. 31, 1850.

### THE BRITISH & FOREIGN MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL REVIEW.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will much oblige me by giving insertion to the following in your widely circulated journal:—

Some two or three years ago, I received a very insolent letter from a person in Liverpool, of the name of Neill, calling upon me to make an apology for a calumnious and unjust critique of some book of his, on the Eye, which the writer alleged I had written, in the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*.

As I had no connexion whatever with the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*—as I neither read it nor wrote for it—as I knew nothing of Mr. Neill or his book—and, above all, as Mr. Neill's letter was both very foolish and very insolent, I did not take any notice of it.

Some time after, I received a second letter, not only equally foolish and insolent, but also threatening. Of that also I took no notice. I do not remember whether I received a third letter, but latterly Mr. Neill has taken to sending me newspapers. One which I received the other day is thus addressed—"Mr. Wharton Jones, F.R.S., &c. &c., 35, George street, Hanover-square, Ophthalmic Reviewer of the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, London."

As Mr. Neill appears determined to persevere in the course of annoyance he has adopted, and as I cannot myself have any direct communication with him, I have written to Mr. Churchill, the publisher of the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, begging him to inform Mr. Neill, that I have not, and never had, any connexion with the *Review* under its present management. Lest, however, there should be any other persons besides Mr. Neill, labouring under the impression that I have been *cutting up* their books, and who might be disposed to retaliate on me, I beg you to do me the favour of inserting this in THE LANCET. I am always quite prepared to answer for anything I really write myself.—I am, Sir, your obedient, humble servant,  
George-street, Hanover-square.  
Jan. 27, 1851.

F. WHARTON JONES.

### COD LIVER OIL IN CASES OF EMACIATION FROM LONG-CONTINUED MANIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to solicit, through the medium of your pages, the attention of medical gentlemen to the use of cod-liver oil in those cases of protracted mania in which the patient becomes very much emaciated, and presents the appearance of a person in an advanced stage of phthisis, even when the lungs are free from tuberculous disease. Without *at present* advancing my own experience in this matter, I am anxious to solicit a trial of this medicine in the above affection by the superintendents of various lunatic hospitals, as also in those stages of general paralysis where marasmus supervenes upon obesity, but especially in the former cases: and I do so from the conviction, that the observation of one individual is rarely sufficient to establish a general principle in therapeutics, not only from the scantiness of his facts for a safe induction, but because the facts he may possess are often perceived through a distorting medium, and thus require the adjusting influence of other men's experience. Drachm doses of this oil, mixed with peppermint water, by means of tragacanth powder and sugar, can generally be administered to patients without much difficulty. The dose may be increased at the discretion of the practitioner.—I am, Sir, your constant reader,  
Jan. 18, 1851.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF AN ASYLUM.