

I have no doubt the sudden appearance of valued friends, a few weeks after I was brought here, would have had this effect upon me.

When public benevolence reaches such a height, or the means of patients are so ample, as to induce the medical faculty to investigate the subject more thoroughly, so that scientific principles can be more generally carried into effect in the treatment of insanity, much greater success may be looked for, and, doubtless, many cases now regarded hopeless would be found not incurable.

CASE OF PROMINENCE OF THE EYEBALLS WITH
DISEASES OF THE THYROID GLAND, AND HEART.
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for the Insane.*

IN the *American Journal of Med. Sciences* for July, 1855, a number of cases are related, taken from foreign journals, of a peculiar affection of the eyeballs, thyroid gland, and heart. As this is a rare combination of symptoms, and presents distinctive features which seem to entitle it to recognition as a new, or, at least, previously undescribed disease, I have thought that a brief notice of a case, which has recently fallen under my observation, might be acceptable to the Association.

M. A. R., a widow, aged 41, blue eyes, brown hair, about five feet nine inches in height, was admitted as a patient into the Asylum on the 8th of March, 1854. For about four years she had been subject to frequent attacks of mental aberration, which had gradually increased in severity until it became necessary to place her under restraint. She was wild and excited, and the expression of her countenance was rendered peculiarly unpleasant by an unusual prominence of the eyeballs. Her pulse was full and strong, and this, in connection with the appearance of her eyes and excitement of manner, gave the impression of strong cerebral irritation. The medical certificate gave no account which threw any light on the peculiar features of the case, and no information of any value could be obtained from the persons who came with the patient. The thyroid gland was observed to be

enlarged, but no particular attention was paid to this symptom. She was kept under close observation, and the bowels were regulated by simple laxatives. Her excitement gradually subsided, and left her in the condition in which she has remained ever since.

Present state.—Pulse 100 to 110, full and soft, with a slight, perceptible thrill. Tongue clear, complexion quite pale, appetite excellent, bowels and catamenia regular, sleeps well.

Thyroid gland moderately enlarged, most so in its right lobe, presenting a tumor about two and a half inches in diameter, with a prominence of perhaps half an inch. Eyeballs very prominent, the white coat surrounding the cornea being visible to the extent of the sixteenth of an inch, when the eyes are open naturally. Vision is apparently unaffected. At times there is slight tendency to inflammation of the conjunctiva. The action of the heart appears to be inordinate, but, owing to mental peculiarities of the patient, but little information can be obtained of its condition by auscultation, nor any account of disordered sensations referable to the organ.

Mental condition.—Is generally quiet, and gives but little trouble. Never addresses any conversation to any one, and seems incapable of fixing her attention so as to comprehend any question, or return a correct answer. Is amiably disposed, and sometimes assists the attendants in their domestic operations. Has a strong disposition to elope, but whether that she may obtain tobacco, to the use of which she is much addicted, or with what object, it is impossible to ascertain. She generally carries a large bundle of rags and useless articles, which she probably designs as a place of concealment for her stock of tobacco. Manifests a strong predilection for the society of men.

Remarks.—Twenty-seven cases of this peculiar form of disease have been collected by Drs. Romberg and Heinock. Of this number four only were males, and all, with one exception, were of persons between twenty and thirty years of age. In the larger number of the cases there existed the combination of the three symptoms of palpitation of the heart, enlargement of the thyroid, and prominence of the eyes; while in six of the twenty-seven, one or other of the three was absent. Almost always the cardiac symptoms were the first observed, then, after a longer or shorter time, the swelling of the neck commenced, and the prominence of the eyes followed. In some instances, as proved by examination during life, as well as *post mortem*, the cardiac symptoms were owing to organic disease; while in others they depended merely

on increased irritability of the organ. The thyroïdal swelling is stated to be intimately connected, in some cases at least, with the condition of the circulation, increasing during the palpitation of the heart, and afterwards subsiding. In other cases the condition of the thyroid has resembled true hypertrophy, and after a few years its consistence has been observed to be much increased. The prominence of the eyes is not regarded as of much consequence in its effects upon vision, as the sight was only in one case seriously impaired. It has been variously accounted for by attributing it to an increase of the aqueous humor, to relaxation of the ocular muscles, and to congestion in the posterior parts of the orbit. In two cases an extraordinary accumulation of fat was found in the cellular tissue behind the eyes, and this may, perhaps, be regarded as the probable cause of the exophthalmos.

Regarding the disease as a whole, the authors above named remark that certainly the large number of persons so affected have exhibited evident marks of anemia, such as a remarkable paleness of the skin, the peculiar sound audible in the blood-vessels of the neck, headaches, often very violent, giddiness, especially when in an erect posture, humming sound in the ears, attacks of fainting, and small, frequent pulse. Irregularity of the catamenia is also frequently present, while fluor albus, and sometimes complete amenorrhea, have been found. Symptoms of an hysterical nature further distinguished not a few of the cases; the globus hystericus, neuralgic pains in different parts, coldness of the extremities, and strange wanderings of the mind. One writer describes a remarkable calmness, and a great desire for pleasure, as characteristic features of the mental condition.

Owing to the inability of the patient to give any account of her sensations, or of the manner in which the symptoms in her case commenced, and the order in which they succeeded each other, as also to the impossibility of obtaining information from any other source, the history of the above case is necessarily imperfect, and in itself can possess but little value. But as a peculiar mental condition has been observed in connection with the group of symptoms above described by those who have met with this form of disease, it appears to be especially worthy of notice by us who are engaged in treating mental disorders, and I have reported the case for the purpose of calling the attention of the profession to the subject.

INSANITY IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.*

IN the October number of the JOURNAL OF INSANITY for 1855, the attention of our readers was called to a movement of the Superintendents of the Poor, having for its object further provision for the insane in the State of New York. The memorial before us was prepared in compliance with a resolution adopted by these officers in convention. The report was made by a select committee of the Senate, to whom the memorial was referred. Both of these documents are in accordance with the enlightened spirit that has characterized the humane policy of the state in former years.

The earlier efforts to provide for these afflicted persons were, doubtless, prompted by that instinct of fear which made the insane objects of dread to community, and were confined simply to restraining them within limits, as jails and alms-houses. With the gradual increase of population, and consequent augmentation of this class, they were encountered by a higher civilization and a more ardent philanthropy. The efforts which, undertaken singly, could have availed but little to ameliorate their condition, realized, when associated, the ends at which they aimed.

In the reception of individual cases of insanity into the New York Hospital in 1797, and, still later, in the erection of a building devoted to their treatment, is recognized the earliest successful attempt to secure to the insane in the state medical direction and special care.

The New York Hospital received its charter in 1791, and, the following year, a grant from the Legislature of \$2,000, annually for 20 years. In May, 1797, there being no receptacle for the treatment of the insane poor in the state, they were provided for in the hospital building, as far as its limited capacity would admit. The average num-

* Report and Memorial of the County Superintendents of the Poor, on Lunacy, and its Relation to Pauperism, and for Relief of Insane Poor. Transmitted to the Legislature, Jan. 23, 1856.

Report of the Select Committee, on Report and Memorial of County Superintendents of the Poor, on Lunacy and its Relation to Pauperism. Transmitted to the Legislature, March 5, 1856.

ber provided for monthly during the year 1798 was seven. In 1802, the the subject of preparing special accommodation for this class on a larger scale was agitated. The admissions, as well as the demands for care, constantly increased. From 1797 to 1803, an average of twenty-two were yearly provided for, or a total of two hundred and fifteen.

It is evident that the Governors of the Hospital continued strenuously to urge this subject upon the notice of their fellow-citizens and the public authorities, for, in the year 1806, in compliance with, and in public recognition of its importance, the Legislature appropriated \$12,500, towards the erection of a building to contain eighty patients, and, in addition, passed an act making this an annual appropriation for fifty years. This building was completed in 1808, and at once received sixty-seven patients, including several lunatics sent by the city corporation, and of whom two were removed from the common jail, where they had been confined in cells for a period of eighteen years. This is the earliest instance of provision for the treatment of pauper lunatics in the lunacy history of this state.

The form of this building was that of the letter H. It was ninety feet in length, forty feet in breadth at the centre, and sixty-five feet at the wings. A hall ran through the centre, "into which the doors of the rooms or cells opened opposite to the window." Though lacking the requisites which experience has shown essential to the successful administration of an insane hospital, it was constructed in conformity with the best experience of that day in the erection of similar institutions, prompted by a benevolent intention to benefit those for it whom it was intended.

In 1815, in consequence of the rapid growth of the city encroaching upon the hospital grounds, their too great publicity, as well as a necessity of their use for increased provision for general hospital purposes, it was determined to purchase a site, with a sufficient amount of land, remote from the city, and to erect upon it a building commensurate with the demands upon the Asylum.

The Asylum building at Bloomingdale was completed in 1821, and received during the first year seventy-five patients. During the existence of the institution, a period of twenty-one years, it had received 1359 insane persons, of which number 513 had recovered, or thirty-seven per cent.

From the time of the earlier admissions there seems to have been a faithful record of cases preserved. A systematic observance of facts, un-

der any circumstances, cannot but furnish a reliable experience for improvement in the future. The wisdom, therefore, in the change of location of the building, leading to the introduction of systematic moral treatment, a greater amount of personal liberty, and diminution of mechanical restraint, is fully shown in the improved results of the institution. Comparing these for twenty-four years, following the change to Bloomingdale, it appears that the total number of patients received was 2769, forty-seven per cent. of whom, or 1304, were discharged recovered; being an increase of ten per cent. over the results of the first period of the Asylum. During the fifty years of its existence as a distinct department of the New York Hospital, it has cared for 5700 persons.

The Governors having been among the first in this country to recognize insanity as a disease amenable to medical and moral treatment, under favorable circumstances, identified their Board intimately with the lunacy history of the State. To the successful administration of their trust is to be attributed the earlier interest excited in behalf of a class of the insane, whose claim for care rested in the public recognition of their helpless situation.

The care of the insane poor devolving upon the Superintendents of the Poor, in 1807 a law was passed authorizing these officers to send the insane of their respective counties to the New York Hospital. How far any towns availed themselves of its provisions does not appear. The capacity of the building, however, was so limited that little was accomplished to improve their situation. There were at this time about two hundred pauper insane in the state, confined, as we have said above, to jails and alms-houses, in wretched association with crime and poverty. In 1825 there were eight hundred and nineteen lunatics in the State. Two hundred and sixty-three of these were of the independent class, and five hundred and fifty-six were paupers. Five years afterwards the Secretary of State made a report to the Legislature that in thirty-three county poor-houses there were supported three hundred and forty-five lunatics, besides many who were in jails, notwithstanding a law had been passed, two years previously, prohibiting such confinement.

In 1830 Governor Throop, in his message to the Legislature, "called the attention of that body to the deplorable condition of the insane poor, and to the propriety of erecting an asylum for their gratuitous care and recovery." In conformity with his recommendation, a committee was appointed to visit Bloomingdale Asylum, and, among other things, to

consider the propriety or necessity of erecting new establishments for the insane; the proper site, if any should be found necessary, for such new erection, with a plan of the same, and an estimate of the probable expense."

This committee made a report the succeeding year, in which they made use of the following language: "To correct the evils and disastrous consequences of the existing system as to pauper lunatics; to discharge that highest of moral and religious duties, which devolves upon us as a government and as citizens, to relieve the wants of the poor and afflicted; to obey the authoritative mandate of the Ruler of the world; to imitate the example of other nations, whom we will not confess surpass us either in public spirit or benevolence, we should erect hospitals, adequate in number and extent, to accommodate all our insane—hospitals provided with all the necessary means and facilities for their safe-keeping, personal comfort, and cure. Let these hospitals be enlarged or multiplied as the malady increases, so as to accommodate at least all the insane poor, the burden of whose support falls directly upon the public."

For the reasons this committee detailed at length, in one of the ablest reports upon lunacy in this state ever presented, they concluded,—“that public establishments for the reception and cure of the insane poor are both necessary and proper; and they therefore submit to the Legislature the expediency of providing for the erection of at least one spacious and commodious hospital, sufficient to accommodate at least three hundred and fifty of the insane poor. If an establishment of this extent should prove inadequate, its accommodations may hereafter be enlarged, or other hospitals erected, of sufficient dimensions and number to accommodate all the insane poor in the state."

This movement resulted in the appointment of a commission to locate a site for an asylum, and, after various delays incident to a new undertaking, an act was passed on the 30th March, 1836, authorizing the erection of the State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica. This institution was completed on the 16th January, 1843. It has been in operation thirteen years, and has cared for 4588 patients. The total number of insane who have received the benefits of these two asylums is 10,288.

These results, during an aggregate existence of the two institutions of sixty-three years, fully confirm the wisdom of the policy so ably foreshadowed in the reports from which we have extracted. The recognition of insanity as a disease susceptible of cure was accomplished

in the adoption for it of a system of moral and medical treatment. This was the result of previous observation and experience ; and the history of these institutions, embracing a period when the disposal of the insane was the result of ignorance and prejudice, enables us to estimate its advantages. The proportion of recoveries which immediately followed its substitution in the Bloomingdale Asylum excelled that of previous years. This improvement has been steadily increasing. The recoveries of the present day excel that period by twenty per cent.; or twenty in every hundred recover under the system of the present day, while only one would have recovered under that of sixty years ago. Since the acquisition of medical men to this department of special medicine, its advancement has not only kept pace with that of general medicine, but has excelled it.

The valuable statistical facts which have yearly emanated from these institutions have not only accomplished much to enlighten the public mind upon the nature of insanity, but have furnished important results to the medical and political economist. Under the enlightened policy which they have clearly indicated, the existence of this disease is not rendered an insupportable burden. With the gradual increase of population, it would be expected its victims would increase, at least, in the same proportion. This, however, has not been the case. The statements bearing upon this are derived from census reports. From these it appears that, in 1825, there were 819 lunatics in the State, or 1 to every 2000 of population.

In 1835 there were 967 lunatics, or 1 to 2222 of population.

1840	"	"	1124	"	1	"	1253	"	"
1850	"	"	2521	"	1	"	1280	"	"

We have, therefore, an increase, since 1825, of a fraction over two hundred per cent. in the number of lunatics in the State, while the percentage increase of population has fallen off fifteen per cent. during the same time, being a large absolute increase in the amount of insanity as compared with that of population.

The insane in the state may be comprised in four classes—the independent, the indigent, the pauper, and the criminal. This distinction is an arbitrary one, and founded upon the social condition after the invasion of disease. There is some difficulty in fixing upon the relative proportion belonging to each class. Judging, however, from the yearly applications to Bloomingdale Asylum, and the asylum at Utica, we

should place the number of the independent class at 2000. The documents before us place the number of indigent and pauper insane at 2419, and the criminal class at 44. This furnishes a total of 4463 insane on the 1st December, 1855. Of this number 455 were in the Asylum at Utica, 121 in Bloomingdale Asylum, 1352 in various county alms-houses, and twenty-three in Clinton, Auburn, and Sing Sing Prisons, leaving 2512, otherwise provided for.

The extent to which the present state provision for the insane poor has sufficed, is set forth in the memorial in the following table :

Year.	Number of Insane Poor in the State.	Number provided for in Asylum.	Number unprovided for.
1843	794	164	630
1844	863	165	698
1845	1076	180	896
1846	1062	208	854
1847	890	242	648
1848	1110	223	887
1849	902	224	678
1850	821	216	605
1851	964	257	707
1852	2038	272	1766
1853	1856	294	1562
1854	2123	296	1827

From this table it appears that 261 have been provided for yearly, and 979 have been left unprovided for. In order to ascertain the condition of those confined in the county alms-houses, without a personal inspection, circulars were addressed by the memorialists to the Superintendents of the Poor, requesting answers to questions which were proposed. In this way there were obtained replies from forty-nine counties, furnishing an account of 757 insane. Their condition is stated as follows : 314 were males ; 443 females ; 450 of native birth ; 301 foreign birth ; 418 usually mild ; 248 excitable, paroxysmal, and destructive ; 118 furious and dangerous ; 235 filthy.

As an indication of the manner in which these persons are cared for, it is stated, 250 were confined constantly to the house, 180 were confined in strong rooms (meaning cells), 71 were in mechanical restraint.

Eight alms-houses had no provision for separating the sexes. This arises from the original imperfect construction of the building in many instances, and in other cases from a disgraceful indifference on the part of the county officers.

The Superintendents of the Poor, in referring to the total want of adaptation of these receptacles to the use of the persons they have been compelled to receive, and in explanation of the evils they detail, remark that they are, "from the nature of their duties, required not only to provide for the necessities of the pauper, but to be the guardians of the insane poor. The former require clothing, food, and that protection from the elements which physical disability may disqualify from obtaining; the latter, though often possessing the physical ability, have wants which they are unable to supply, by reason of mental disease. This great distinction between the two classes leads us at once to infer, that while the wants of the former are supplied by attention to the physical being, the latter require special care, applicable to their condition. The various county alms-houses become alike the receptacles of the pauper and lunatic. They possess the means of alleviating the wants of the former, but are powerless to heal the malady of the latter. A single circumstance, common to the two—poverty, is allowed to govern their association and disposal." This mingling together is declared unjust and unnatural.

The number of the insane poor who were self-supported previous to the invasion of insanity is 621, or 82 per cent. of the entire number. The relation, therefore, that pauperism holds to insanity does not appear to be that of cause and effect, to the degree that many suppose; pauperism being rather a condition involved in the situation of its victims. Mental activity necessary to self-support implies the use, and consequently, too frequently, the abuse of the mental faculties. On the other hand, the absence of desire for self-support presupposes such a lack of capacity for self-preservation as to constitute an original mental defect. The development of this fact is fully borne out by an examination of upwards of 4000 cases of insanity, which exhibits the small number of seventy-four insane persons without occupation. The extent of pauperism and attendant misery is not limited to the immediate victims of the disease. The number of families who became a public charge during the year, through insanity in the head of the family, was twenty-nine.

A large number of these persons are, doubtless, incurable: this is to be ascribed to neglect in providing for the disease during its curable stage. The memorialists appear fully convinced that this course is yearly accumulating in the alms-houses numbers of this class, who will remain a public charge during their lifetime; and that their increase or

diminution will depend upon the policy hereafter pursued. "With the increase of insanity pauperism will increase in proportion. Diminish lunacy, one of its fruitful causes, and the amount of this burden will be lessened."

In view of this the form of relief is presented. Insanity should be recognized as a disease requiring special treatment in hospitals provided for the purpose. All the insane should be there provided for who are not in a condition to reside in private families. In view of the present and prospective burden, a statement is made of the results to be expected from a provisional system of this character. Presuming that insanity will continue to increase in the same proportion, in years to come, as it has, it is estimated that in the year 1860 the number of pauper insane will reach 3683. Assuming that forty-two per cent. of recent and old cases recover, and of recent cases seventy-five per cent., let the effect of a provisional system upon the number be considered. The number of lunatic paupers in 1854 being 2123, forty-two per cent. would recover, or 891, leaving 1232 remaining incurable. The increase which is necessary to make the number reach 3683 in the year 1860, is 1560, seventy-five per cent. of which number, or 1170, will recover by prompt treatment, leaving 390 incurable. The provisional system would, therefore, have accomplished a reduction, in 1860, of 2061. In other words, 1622 lunatic paupers would require public support, instead of 3683.

In condemnation of the system of longer continuing the insane in alms-houses, the superintendent of the State Asylum at Utica, in the thirteenth annual report of that institution, makes use of the following language :

"It has been the custom of the institution, in accordance with law, to send annually to the poor-houses, or to the care of friends, many who had been under treatment two or three years, and in their place receive a corresponding number of new cases. During the past year we have adopted this course in as few instances as duty would permit—first, because the receptacles for this class are filled; and secondly, we believe the provision of the law advising this step originated in a mistaken notion of the disease to be treated, and is at variance with justice and humanity. Insanity is a grave disease, requiring the most careful investigation, the most patient observation, and the skillful application of means—all of which must often extend over a period of many years. The idea of consigning the unfortunate victims of such a malady to poor-houses—places, with few exceptions, not only destitute of medical and moral means of treatment, but even without the ordinary physical comforts of life—is a species of cruelty which should excite universal disapprobation.

"Furthermore, the legal sanction thus given to poor-houses as suitable places for the custody of cases of long standing, led many public officers in former years, ignorant of the nature and demands of the disease, and through a mistaken economy, to confine in those houses and attempt the treatment there of recent cases—thus also rendering incurable a large number, who, under appropriate treatment in an asylum, would have recovered in a few months. One public officer, in speaking of the wretched condition of the insane in county-houses, remarked that one female, who, while here, occupied a quiet ward, *had been chained in a garret-room of the poor-house for eighteen months*; but that her husband had recently removed her to another state, and, he believed, had succeeded in getting her into an asylum. Another, in congratulating the county on the improved condition of the insane, remarked,—'*that whereas, formerly, a great majority were in chains, now but four or five were kept so constantly; others were kept chained only at night, or, perhaps, for an hour or two through the day.*' One of the counties of the State, only little more than a year ago, had in the county-house, on the 18th of July, fifty-three insane; on the 25th of the same month, only twenty-nine—twenty-four having died of cholera in one week, and that when there was no cholera in the neighborhood! This same county-house now contains sixty-nine insane. Such things need no comment, though they themselves are sad commentaries on the condition of the public mind in reference to the treatment of this most afflictive form of disease. If there were a correct and active public opinion upon this subject, those who have the poor and sick in their charge would not so neglect and violate their duty."

His Excellency the Governor, in his annual message, urged that—

"It would be unworthy of a great commonwealth to neglect to make adequate provision for the care of its insane. New York has heretofore done her duty to humanity in this regard; but her population has increased without an increase of her provision to shelter, and subject to discipline and treatment the deranged. One hundred and sixty-seven applications for admission to the Utica Asylum during the last year were made in vain; there was not room to receive them. In order to make place for recent cases, thirty-four inmates of the establishment during that time were discharged—not cured and not improved. Nearly one thousand insane persons are now confined in the different county poor-houses of our state. In too many of these the afflicted languish wretchedly, without the chance of a cure. In nearly all of them their treatment is simple imprisonment. Their helplessness and destructiveness make their confinement, in most cases, more painful than that of criminals. Generous and creditable as has been the provision made by New York for her insane, it is manifestly inadequate."

The attention of the Legislature being called, through so many official sources and appropriate channels, to the condition of the insane of the State, received the recommendations for their relief with that consideration the importance of the subject demanded. The whole mat-

ter was referred to a select committee of the Senate, consisting of Hons. E. J. Richardson, Mark Spencer, George W. Bradford, M. Lindley Lee, and John W. Ferdon, who made an elaborate report, in which, after presenting the policy pursued in former years, they say that they "have ascertained that but 28 per cent. of the whole number of the insane have received asylum treatment, while 72 per cent. have received no such treatment! And this large proportion of this most afflicted class of our fellow-beings are kept in county-houses or distinct establishments, the more refractory and destructive being confined in strong rooms, or more properly cells, where it too often happens that they are subjected to great abuse and the most humiliating restraint! Thus deprived of all moral influences and medical inspection, it is not surprising that the restoration of any of them to mental health, as stated by the memorialists, is of very rare occurrence, and constitutes the exception. This deficiency, it is believed, does not, in the majority of instances, result so much from the cupidity of the town or county authorities as from their utter inability to provide that relief which they have been among the first to point out. The system of providing for the insane poor in alms-houses has little in its favor, save the single circumstance of preserving life. And the counties are doing but little more, in continuing to foster it, than to consign the insane, in the most speedy manner, to a state of incurability, and thus throw them upon public charge for the remainder of life. The burden of those thus supported already amounts to nearly \$150,000 annually, which has resulted mainly from the neglect of timely and proper treatment. How this misery may be relieved, this burden alleviated, and this expense reduced, are questions deserving serious consideration."

The committee conclude their report as follows :

"It is, then, no more than the common wisdom that is applied to the ordinary business of life, to take such measures as will secure the early treatment of the insane, and give them the best opportunity of restoration that the age affords, and by this means reduce, in the future at least, the number of permanent lunatics to that small proportion whose malady is, from its very nature, incurable. As the demand knows no other limit than the number of the insane and the duration of their disease, so the duty of providing the means for their protection and cure should be measured only by the necessities of those who need them.

"In view of the principles and facts set forth in the memorial and in this report, and in view of the great number of insane persons in this state who actually need the accommodations and treatment of public institutions suitable to their sad condition, proper protection, and speedy cure, the committee

advise and recommend that the State provide for the location and construction of such number and kind of asylums for the insane as will afford adequate relief for them, with the greatest economy, and surest results for good. The committee believe that the object can best be attained by the creation of a board of three commissioners, selected from different parts of the state, with entire regard to their fitness for the position, and the important duties of the commission, which are prescribed in the accompanying bill. The State and the public interest will be better served by one set of commissioners than by several, each selected with special reference to a particular locality.

"In the efforts heretofore made to secure the passage of a law authorizing the location and erection of other state asylums for the insane, side issues and local interests have, unhappily, not only greatly embarrassed, but defeated the measure. This has been the result from year to year. This has been the case especially in regard to the matter of location, which is a question of minor importance, except so far as possessing the advantages and facilities which are necessary to render such establishments the most useful; then it is of the first importance.

"The committee, being fully aware of this difficulty, and feeling the necessity of some speedy and efficient action, have examined authorities on the location, construction, and organization of asylums for the insane, and find that experience has established certain settled facts and principles which involve questions of the greatest moment to medical science, and of vital importance to the economy of the state in the exercise of its liberal munificence for the relief of the insane. The wants of such establishments are peculiar, and demand, in their location, special external advantages, and in their construction certain internal peculiarities. These disregarded, the result is disastrous, both in a medical and in an economical point of view.

"1.—Such institutions should be upon great thoroughfares, easily accessible. This is necessary as a matter of ease and economy in the transportation of patients, and that the sick and feeble may not be subjected to the inconveniences and dangers attending frequent changes of conveyances. 2.—They should not be in the country, but in the vicinity of large towns, where supplies are easily procured, where attendants are readily obtained, and where may be found 'the social, scientific relations indispensable to cultivated minds,' and the useful kinds of recreations and amusements. 3.—They should be located where an ample supply of pure water is obtainable at all seasons, and, if possible, without the aid of machinery or tanks in the attics of the buildings. A reservoir is less expensive in construction than machinery and attic tanks, and costs less for after-repairs, and is far more reliable and safe. 4.—The grounds should be so situated that the most thorough drainage can be effected easily, and without too great expense. Nothing is more important than the removal of all sources of impurity from such establishments. 5.—They should not be placed in the vicinity of lakes, or rivers, or other large bodies of water, which might prove 'the cause of accident or the occasion of suicide.' 6.—They should be located where a farm of at least 100 acres of land can be obtained, to which the previous five propositions will apply. The character of the place and grounds

should be, as has been well said by Dr. Falret, 'healthy, the views pleasant and diversified, the soil fertile.' . . . 'A plain presents too much uniformity, and captivates neither the mind nor the heart. The sources of running water, so agreeable to the sight, are indispensable for baths, the irrigation of the gardens, and the cleanliness of the building. Fertility of the soil is necessary, in order to give interest to the cultivation of the grounds, and that the insane may find in the harvest an ample recompense for their labor. A beautiful landscape excites in the soul salutary emotions, and gives some repose to the mind in withdrawing it from its pre-occupation. The soul submits insensibly to the influence of all the objects which surround it, and the beauty of nature contributes powerfully to restore peace and reason to the darkened and bewildered mind.'"

The recommendations of the committee, as will be perceived, were of the most liberal character, and entirely in accordance with the benevolence that actuated their action. The bill, which accompanied the report, providing for the immediate erection of two asylums, passed the Senate. In the Assembly it passed a third reading, when its further progress was arrested by the premature adjournment of the Legislature. This result is to be deeply deplored, especially as it involves the continuance of abuses, and an onerous burthen which a great and proud state should hesitate to prolong.

In this brief, retrospective sketch of the history of lunacy provision in the State of New York, we have endeavored to recognize the important connection between the policy initiated by her benevolent citizens, and its final adoption by the State. The government has been taught, and in turn now "educates its citizens." The political organization of society in our country, though not disposed to act solely upon benevolent appeals, recognizes, as we may herein see, the efforts of the humanitarian economist.

Not among the least of the evidences of interest excited in this whole subject has been the appointment of a committee by the State Senate to make a personal inspection of the county alms-houses and jails. This committee have entered upon their labors, and the benevolence of the gentlemen comprising it, and the great interest they have already manifested in the prosecution of their duties, induce us to await with anxiety their report.

J. B. C.

MONOMANIA.

From Journal de Médecine et de Chirurgie Pratiques, March, 1856.

THE learned may not always agree upon questions of physiology, philosophy, or morals, but it rarely occurs that a truth introduced into science is expelled from it by the defection of those who would seem called upon to support it. However, at this time, a question has been raised, among physicians for the insane, which deserves notice, because it interests both practical and legal medicine, and, above all, humanity. We know that Pinel and Esquirol held it to be an incontestably established fact, and one which has heretofore been but little disputed, that insanity may attack, partially, one or several of our faculties, without modifying, in any degree, the others, which remain intact as in a state of perfect health; in other words, that the insane person may reason justly upon all points, except that which is the constant object of his delirium. This condition, which, however, did not escape the observation of the ancients, was studied by Esquirol under the name of *mania*, and divided into several classes, designated according to the number or character of the faculties affected.

The theory of monomania has been attacked with much animation before the Medico-Psychological Society, recently established at Paris, and composed of eminent physicians for the insane. It has been defended with much strength of reasoning by the greater part of the practical men whom the Society counts among its members; and we believe that those among the *savans* devoted to psychology who oppose this theory will yield to the good sense and observation of facts, which establish triumphantly the independent action of the faculties and their isolation in a state of health or disease.

We have before us a pamphlet, the work of a distinguished physician for the insane (M. le docteur Pinel), which presents the question in its true light, and replies explicitly to the objections which have been urged against the theory of monomania.

"It is of little consequence," says the author, "whether the predominant or delirious idea be a primitive or secondary phenomenon, or whether it be occasioned by the alteration of this or that order of

faculties, by the disorder of one or several of these latter ; or whether it has been preceded or followed by a period more or less characterized by other phenomena ; this is not the question. That which it is important above all to know, in order to decide as to the existence of monomania, is, whether there are or are not some insane persons who present, during a period of more or less duration, the aspect of rational men, who impress themselves as such almost always, not only upon the world generally, but upon magistrates, upon physicians little versed in the study of mental affections, and sometimes upon those devoted to this specialty,—whether or not these patients, aside from one or several insane ideas which absorb them, are not capable sometimes, if not frequently, of acting, of conducting themselves, of conversing, writing, reasoning, judging, and discerning, in a manner to induce the belief that they are of sound mind, whether or not one touches their *corde délirante*, whether they endeavor to change the subject or dissimulate in reference to the insane conceptions to which they are a prey ; and further, if the characteristics of the partial delirium or monomania, whether oppressive or expansive, are not so decisive that they cannot be confounded with those of general delirium, from which they differ essentially ; and whether the diagnosis of the latter is not ordinarily easily determined, while, on the contrary, the former may not, under some circumstances, occasion doubt, and leave even experts in uncertainty ; in fine, if, in monomania, and notwithstanding all the appearances of the integrity of reason, moral liberty is not profoundly impaired in such manner that the monomaniac, being no longer master of his own will, acts irresistibly, although, in some cases, with knowledge and discernment."

The question, as presented by M. Pinel, is, in fact, the one to be discussed : can insanity be partial, impairing some of our faculties to the exclusion of others, so as to leave to us the appearances of reason whilst we really merit to be classed among the insane ? This is what it imports us to know. Apart from this, whether there exists a *monomania* in all the acceptance of the term—that is to say, whether the subject be delirious exclusively on one point, or whether several of his faculties be affected at the same time, thereby making him an *oligomane*, as he would be called—is of little consequence ; it would be less difficult to prove that all the faculties of a man were intact, with the exception of one rather than of two or even of three ; but the discussion having reached this point, has no more interest for the phy-

sician, who should stop only at the question of delirium or partial delirium so well presented by M. Pinel. What do the adversaries of the theory of monomania tell us; for example, in what category would they class the man whose history is traced by the author as follows:

"M. Ferrus, directed by the court to ascertain the mental condition of a patient in my establishment, came frequently during a period of six months, without being able to make his report. During his prolonged visits, this monomaniac comported himself in such a manner as to render it doubtful whether he was insane or not. He replied to all questions with perfect lucidity, or eluded with address, spirit, and politeness those which might embarrass him. His demeanor, his gestures, his physiognomy, and his dress manifested nothing peculiar.

"M. Ferrus tried every method to discover traces of his partial delirium; snares were laid for him; he was made to converse, without suspecting the presence of our honored associate in an adjoining room, where he could hear the conversation. M. Ferrus took him a biscuit dipped in a glass of wine in which powdered sugar had been put, saying to him that his wife had sent it; nothing, however, revealed the existence of one or several delirious ideas, and yet this patient was a monomaniac who had attempted to kill his wife and afterwards to commit suicide. After the trial of Mme. Lafarge, he always believed that his wife had attempted to poison him, and still sought to do it; he thought his linen sent by her contained poisonous substances, such as arsenic and belladonna; that he had detected her reading the *Matière Médicale* of Barbier, which his physician had loaned him secretly; that his bed was often covered with a metallic powder. Apart from this fixed idea, and which he did not always give utterance to, but made known with reserve, which he dissimulated with ease, and only to certain persons, denying it to the greater number, and some days even to those to whom he had previously confided it, particularly if there were others present—he spoke and acted in a rational manner.

"It was only after some length of residence in my house that he confided to me his insane convictions, which he afterwards disavowed in the presence of M. Ferrus.

"This monomaniac is the same patient, a portion of whose history M. Baillarger has reported in his paper on monomania. I saw him, several months since, at the Bicêtre, under the care of Dr. Voisin. He is at present in a state of dementia."

We have often known physicians differ in opinion as to the nature of

an ulcer, to which had been attributed a syphilitic character. Whilst they deliberated, the disease made progress. A syphilitic ulceration in the throat, or an exostosis, by revealing the true nature of the disease, made the consulting physicians agree. Without wishing to institute a comparison between affections so dissimilar, may we not say that monomania, the diagnosis of which is often so difficult to establish, that the world and even physicians refuse to recognize it in certain subjects, is no longer, like the ulcer of which we have spoken, the object of doubt with any person, as soon as the delirium, once partial, has become general? Observation proves this, that frequently persons, after being insane on one point, have successively all their faculties weakened or perverted, but that they also often remain monomaniacs during many years, and even exercise such care to conceal the aberration of which they are the victims, that those around them do not suspect the existence of the malady with which they are affected.

These conclusions are rendered evident by M. Pinel, in the pamphlet from which we have quoted. It is not necessary, in order to appreciate them, that one shall have directed his studies in a special manner to the treatment of the insane. We maintain that every physician who observes and reflects is capable of forming an opinion upon the relative value of this theory. If it is true that all the comedians are not upon the stage, and that the world is a vast theatre, on which the most startling and affecting dramas are constantly being played, we may also say that all the insane are not in asylums, and that the physician who possesses the confidence of families, and to whom the intimacies of life are no secret, often discovers infirmities and griefs, which, though a mystery to the world, are to him but the too evident results of monomania. To strike this word from the nosological list, it would be first necessary to efface from the mind of the physician all those remembrances which, in recalling the frailty of human reason, are to him a constant subject of astonishment, of sadness, and of humiliation.