this arrangement will be carried out here as soon as a fitting opportunity presents itself."

We have met with similar remarks in some other asylum report, but regret that, having mislaid it, we cannot now refer to the passage bearing upon this important point. Now, however, that the question of female nursing of male patients in asylums has been definitely raised, and the practice actually tried on a small scale, we may look to have, before long, further information respecting the effects of its employment.

The Texas State Lunatic Asylum.

Most people are aware that Texas is not a very settled country, nor one in which a man of quiet disposition would choose to reside. Perhaps a story which we heard a few days since conveys as vivid a picture of the unsettled state of the country as it is possible to convey in a few words. An American gentleman being asked his opinion of Texas, replied, after a short pause of deliberation, and with the characteristic drawl and nasal twang, "Well, sir, if I owned Hell and Texas, I should let Texas, and elect to live on my other property." An opinion sufficiently expressive of the amenities of Texas. We have been reminded of the story by a letter in the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, giving a brief account of a visit to the State Lunatic Asylum of Texas. The writer, who gives no name, says that he found in the hall "what the doctor called a case-bed, but which looked more like a cage for wild animals. It was a box, a little wider and longer than a single bedstead, made of wooden bars, much resembling a wooden cradle without rockers, about a foot from the ground, on which a mattress and chamber were placed. The patient lies down, and a lid, composed likewise of wooden rods, two or three inches apart, is secured over him, about a half foot above his body, rendering it impossible for him to raise his head or roll around in it. It was, without exception, the most cruel contrivance I have ever witnessed for bodily torture, and to my great surprise, I found that three were in nightly use. A patient whom I saw in the office, apparently harmless, suffering from chronic mania following its acute stage, the result of onanism, was one of its unhappy inmates. The poor doctor, in my opinion, was as fit a subject for such treatment as his unfortunate patient."

After giving a few other details with regard to the establishment, which certainly appear to indicate a better condition of things than the description of the cage would lead

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one to suppose, the writer goes on to describe one of the characteristics of the place—the darkened room for refractory patients.

"They were like the ordinary single bed-rooms, except that the windows above the door leading to the hall were closed with planks so as to shut out the light. The door had a slide window for observation from outside, and the window to the exterior was blocked up with masonry, converting it into a police-station cell, with the exception that no air or light was admissible. There was no furniture, no chamber, no padding to protect the patient from self-inflicted injury. It is true there was a ventilator at the ceiling leading to the hall, but the room had the dampness and close air of a vault; and even had the ventilator been in active operation it would not admit fresh air from without, but only the contaminated air of the hall, which in the female wards had a very perceptible uriniferous smell. The doctor informed me that usually half an hour's imprisonment was sufficient to abate any refractoriness, though sometimes it required a longer period."

He ends by saying,—"The water-closets were filthy, and in short there was no redeeming quality in the whole establishment. So much for political appointments."

Lyon v. Home.

No one who has read the reports of the trials for witchcraft which were so frequent at one time, and has studied the sort of evidence given by witnesses and accepted by judges on these occasions, will be much surprised at the revelations made in this trial. There is no limit to the credulity of the ignorant and superstitious except the limit which there is in the nature of things to the audacity of the impostor and charlatan: what some people believe is measured only by what any one may confidently dare to ask them to believe. And it would seem to be almost impossible to speculate too much on the credulity of persons of a certain temperament in regard to all matters having relation to the unseen or spiritual world. Let the grossest absurdity be presented to them in the name of the spiritual, they accept it with a childlike helplessness of faith.

The facts of this extraordinary case lie in a small compass; the affidavits of the plaintiff and defendant, notwithstanding many contradictions, agreeing so far in essential points as to leave little doubt of what actually took place at the interviews be-

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