ings on a subject concerning which he could not speak with any authority. If it was merely a protest against the opinion that man differs not at all from the animal, it was perfectly needless, seeing that no one, so far as we know, holds now, or ever did hold, such an absurd opinion. It is certain not to be so understood. As it stands, it is not exempt from the charge of being a covert and an unfitting appeal to the prejudices of ignorance and bigotry, unworthy of the occasion and of the audience from which it derived all its importance. Its condemnation will be the applause of those who receive it with joy and thanksgiving. Dr. Reynolds too, on reflection, may perhaps come to see that in conjuring biological science to stay its course at his bidding, he has put himself in a somewhat ludicrous position.

The Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum.

A perusal of Dr. Orange's instructive report of this asylum, leaves on the mind a vivid idea of the dangerous beings with whom he has to deal. Looking to the history and character of some of the treacherous and explosive compounds of badness and madness who are confined in it, we think there must be great joy indeed in heaven over one of those sinners that repenteth. Not that they are all equally bad. Dr. Orange points out that under the term "criminal lunatic" two very different classes of persons are comprised. One class consists of those who, having been charged with the commission of some criminal act, have, either while awaiting trial, or when arraigned, or when tried, been found to be insane; the other class consists of those who have beeu certified to be insane whilst undergoing penal servitude in convict prisons.

The former class consists mainly of persons whose offences have been the direct results of their insane state, and who, up to the time of the outbreak of their insanity, have in many cases led honest and industrious lives. The latter class consists chiefly of habitual criminals, whose offences against law and order are part of their everyday life, their habitual actions being anti-social. Of the 28 persons of this class transferred from convict prisons to Broadmoor, in 1873, 26 were known to have been previously convicted. These are they who are riotous and insubordinate, and who occasion the most trouble and anxiety; they are persons of criminal habits

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—more criminal than lunatic—who have an inborn antipathy to order and law, and who are quite capable of combining to effect their escape; in fact, it is noteworthy that all who have at any time escaped since the opening of the asylum, and who have not been retaken, have belonged to this class. Dr. Orange's experience has convinced him that the arrangements suitable to the former class are not suitable to these insane convicts; that an asylum constructed and organised upon the plan of a county asylum affords too great facilities for combination; that the unrestricted association of the inmates leads to the corruption and still further deterioration of the younger by the older inmates; and that for their efficient control and management the existence of the means for carrying out the individual separation of the inmates is not less necessary than it has been found to be in the hospital wards of convict prisons. His conclusion is, therefore, that special arrangements should be made for this troublesome class, and that they should be separated from those who are detained during Her Majesty's pleasure, for whom the existing buildings would afford suitable accommodation. The means of their treatment should be adapted, in fact, to the element which predominates in their nature—the criminal disposition.

We have sometimes heard strong objections raised to the term "criminal lunatic," as inappropriate and unjust; it being argued that if a person is a lunatic he is not responsible for his offence against law, and is not rightly designated criminal. The words "criminal lunatic" are asserted, therefore, to be a contradiction in terms. In regard to those among Dr. Orange's patients whose offences have been purely the result of their insanity, there may be some weight in these objections; but we certainly have no sympathy with the sentiment which is hurt by the application of the word "criminal" to the members of the second class—the insane convicts. Furthermore, if a more stringent discipline is necessary in order to protect those who have the care of them from their brutality and violence, and the better disposed among themselves from the corrupting influence of the hardened and impenitent, and if some measure of actual punishment can be proved to benefit the sort of insanity under which they labour, even if only by enforcing self-control through the low motive of fear, we think that the discipline and punishment may rightly be used. Insanity is without doubt disease, but there are assuredly some forms of it among

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these insane convicts which fall short of the degree of irresponsible disease, and for such forms the most scientific and humane treatment is that which shall prevent them from reaching the stage of irresponsibility.

While holding this opinion, however, we should be loth to endorse the rather startling statement which the Commissioners of Lunacy have made in their last Report with regard to the responsibility of the patient who made the fatal attack upon the late Mr. Lutwidge in Fisherton House Asylum. At any rate, before endorsing it, we should have wished to see how it bore the test of cross-examination in the witness box. This patient had been in confinement as a lunatic from the year 1846—for six years in the Bedford County Asylum, and afterwards at Fisherton House. When he was put on his trial for the wilful murder of Mr. Lutwidge, Dr. Finch deposed that he was of unsound mind, labouring under chronic mania with delusions, and that he was not responsible for his actions. Thereupon the Lord Chief Baron Kelly expressed a strong opinion that it was useless to go on with the case, and the jury immediately returned a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity. However, notwithstanding Dr. Finch's testimony, the opinion of the Chief Baron, and the verdict of the jury, the Commissioners express their opinion that the man "*was quite responsible for his actions.*" They say of him—

> He was well known to those members of our Board, who from time to time during this period (the period of his detention) had visited the asylum where he was confined. He was a working patient, employed usually in the garden, where, according to his own account, he had found the rail which he fashioned into a murderous weapon. The entries in the case book show that, although sometimes turbulent and threatening, he had never committed any serious assault, and was not considered actually dangerous. Those of our number who, as just mentioned, knew the man, described him as being a person of a weak, imperfectly developed intellect, but they agree in considering that he was quite responsible for his actions."

We must presume, then, that the Commissioners in Lunacy are of opinion that the man ought to have been hanged. We have no knowledge of his actual mental state, although Dr. Finch's testimony, taken in connection with the statement of the Commissioners as to his weak intellect, would appear to indicate that he was labouring under the chronic mania which has passed into dementia; but we cannot help

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thinking that the treatment of a lunatic who had been nearly thirty years in confinement as a fully responsible agent would have been a startling exhibition, and would have initiated a new and revolutionary principle in the treatment of lunatics in asylums. For if we are to consider whether chronic lunatics are responsible for their actions when they do wrong, it is clear that when one of them wilfully offends or attacks an attendant, and the attendant punishes him for the offence, we should be bound to hold the attendant excused, or, indeed, justified. Or if such a patient, instead of committing homicide, were to commit suicide, being "quite responsible for his actions," would it not be illogical and unjust to censure those who had the care of him, in that they did not prevent him from acting as a quite responsible agent? Medical Superintendents of asylums will have an anxious difficulty imposed upon them if they are to treat the patients according to the degree of their responsibility, and to deal with those who may be thought to be quite responsible for their actions exactly as if they were so. They will do well not to attempt it, even though they should now believe that they may claim for the principle the sanction of the Commissioners in Lunacy, unless they can obtain from the Commissioners at their visits a positive opinion as to the degree of responsibility of each one of the 60,000 lunatics whom they visit in the year.

Dr. Orange's Report tells the story of the escape of Bisgrove. Looking to the manner of it, we cannot resist a suspicion that he was not quite so irresponsible for the murder which he committed as we supposed at one time. There is clearly much method in his madness, of whatever sort this may be, and if he comes again under Dr. Orange's care, we trust that he will consider him entitled by his exploits to rank in the second class of dangerous ruffians, and will treat him accordingly. His escape was in this wise:—

> On July 12, a male patient, W. B., whilst taking exercise in the grounds, succeeded in throwing the attendant in charge of him off his guard by asking a question respecting some rabbit burrows which were near the path. The attendant was induced by the question to stoop down to examine one of the burrows, when the patient attacked him from behind, first inflicting a violent blow upon the back of the head, and afterwards making an attempt to strangle him. A struggle ensued, but the patient succeeded in making his escape into the neighbouring woods, and, although assistance was immediately ob-

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tained, and a most persevering search was continued for many days, he was not recaptured. On examining the attendant he was found to have sustained a scalp wound about an inch in length, and also to be suffering from the effects of concussion of the brain, which rendered rest for several weeks necessary before he was sufficiently restored to be able to resume duty. The patient W. B., who thus escaped, had been tried with another man in the year 1868 for murder, and, in the first instance, both were convicted and sentenced to death, but W. B. having confessed that he alone was guilty, the other man was released, and the sentence of W. B. was commuted to penal servitude for life. He was afterwards certified to be insane, and was admitted into this asylum in January, 1869. During the early part of his detention he displayed a considerable amount of violence of conduct and language, but after a time a gradual improvement in this respect took place, and for eighteen months before his escape he had been permitted to go out for exercise from time to time in the grounds of the asylum outside the walls. On these occasions he had always previously conducted himself well. The attendant who had charge of him when he escaped had often accompanied him for exercise in the grounds in a similar manner; he also had the charge of the ward of which W. B. was an inmate, and he has been seven years in the service. But, notwithstanding his general experience, and his special knowledge of the patient, the latter behaved in so quiet and orderly a manner on the occasion in question, up to the moment of attack, as to entirely disarm the attendant of all suspicion. This occurrence has conveyed a warning to all more immediately concerned in the management of the asylum which will not soon be forgotten.

A Good Example.

It would hardly be possible to use higher terms of commendation than those in which Sir James Coxe and Dr. Mitchell, the Scotch Lunacy Commissioners, describe the condition and management of the Argyll District Asylum. This satisfactory result they attribute mainly to the beneficial employment of the patients. "Industrial occupation here," says Sir James Coxe, "means really active employment, and is very far from being a mere matter of pretence." On the day of his visit, though the weather was wet and boisterous, there were out 129 male patients, 86 at work in the grounds, garden and farm, seven with the artizans, and ten in house-cleaning; so that only 26 remained unemployed by means of idleness or sickness. "One of the most marked results of the system of sending all the patients in small parties to various occupations," Dr. Rutherfurd says, in his Report of 1874, "is

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