placed for ventilation. Few will recognise the force of the argument, that "the enlarged asylum will surpass in working a new institution, because in the latter the staff are strangers to one another, and in many cases strangers to their duties."

We trust the committee of Colney Hatch asylum will reperuse and reconsider their letter of March, 1855, to the Lunacy Commissioners, and be induced to retain their then expressed convictions, that, on no account should any addition be made; that the building is already inconveniently large, and that the loss of time its size involves to the officers, is a serious evil.

Here we must pause, hoping that wiser counsels as to the best mode of managing and treating the insane poor will for the future actuate the visiting justices of the Middlesex county asylums.

J. T. A.

Dr. Conolly and Mr. Pownall.

In the late Mr. Sergeant Adams, who for many years occupied so prominent a position among the Visitors of the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, the public have lost a laborious and faithful servant; society has lost a warm-hearted and benevolent man; and the insane have lost an energetic and devoted friend. During the first years of arduous exertion and intense anxiety, which followed the introduction of the non-restraint system at Hanwell, Dr. Conolly found no more strenuous supporter than the late assistant judge. If this worthy man had any imperfections of temper, or of character, let them be buried with him; let them not now be remembered to mar the tribute of grateful remembrance which we owe to his large-hearted philanthropy.

He had to steer his course through troubled waters. During the heat of the non-restraint discussion, and of late years in the somewhat turbulent court over which he presided, the circumstances of his public life were not always such as to bring into relief the most amiable traits of his disposition; and his impartial biographer might find it needful to use the apology of Tacitus, "At mihi nunc, narraturo vitam defuncti hominis, venia opus fuit: quam non petissem, ni cursaturus tam sœva et infesta virtutibus tempora."

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It is not in these days true, that censoriousness pursues its object beyond the limits of the grave; it is *not* the "*evil* which men do, lives after them;" and in speaking of the departed, men commonly adopt the principle of a well known and charitable maxim to that effect. But the privilege of recording the virtues of the dead, affords no sanction to invade the rights and the reputation of the living; and if we can suppose the spirit of a just man to be still conscious of the events taking place in the scenes which he has left, we must feel assured, that no event can be more calculated to disturb the serenity of his peace, than a knowledge that his posthumous reputation had been constructed upon the violated rights of others.

We have been led to these reflections by the perusal of the Address of Mr. Pownall, chairman of the Middlesex Quarter Sessions. Speaking of the late Mr. Sergeant Adams, he remarks,

"It was in 1838, that our late friend joined the committee "of the Hanwell asylum, and then he directed his great "energies to ameliorating the condition of the unfortunate "lunatics, the patients in that institution, where *the non-* "*restraint system had been but partially carried out by Sir* "*William Ellis and Dr. Conolly.* The vindication of all the "measures of improvement fell principally on him, and "nobly and successfully did he advocate the cause of suffer- "ing humanity. There are in this court yet, those who "recollect his able exertions, and will remember him with "lasting respect, for those efforts which *enabled the com-* "*mittee of the asylum at that time to effect their benevolent* "*object.* Happily he was spared to see the glorious result "of his endeavours; severity of treatment transformed "into treatment characterized by kindness and pity, anger "into compassion, oppression into mildness, and unutterable "woes and suffering into calm tranquillity and enjoyment." *The Times*, January 18, 1856.

This address contains, as we shall shew, misrepresentations of the gravest character. We cannot for one moment believe that they were made intentionally, and with knowledge. But as Mr. Pownall is also chairman of Hanwell, we must be permitted to express our great surprise that he was not better acquainted with the proceedings of the body, and with the history of the institution over which he presides.

The address above quoted contains the following propositions:—

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1st. That the non-restraint system at Hanwell was partially carried out by Sir William Ellis.

2nd. That it was partially carried out by Dr. Conolly.

3rd. That the committee of the asylum effected this object.

We shall prove from the reports of Dr. Conolly, which were adopted by the committee, and by those of the committee themselves, that each of these propositions is untrue, and that each of the following propositions is true.

1st. That Sir William Ellis did not introduce or practise the non-restraint system at Hanwell, and therefore could not have partially carried it out.

2nd. That the non-restraint system was introduced by Dr. Conolly; and that it was not partially, but completely carried out by him.

3rd. That the committee gave their sanction to the experiment, but that for many years after its complete success, they gave the whole credit of it to Dr. Conolly. That "the visiting justices pretended not to meddle with the curative part of the question;" and that they considered their duty to be, that "of *watching* with calm and unprejudiced minds, the practical working of the system."

That Sir William Ellis did not introduce the non-restraint system at Hanwell, we have the negative evidence of his published work, on the treatment of the insane, and of his seven annual reports, from 1832 to 1838. We have carefully looked through both his work on insanity and these reports, and we have been unable to discover the slightest allusion to the non-restraint system. The treatise contains a long chapter on the treatment of insanity, occupying 113 octavo pages. It has been evidently dictated by an extended experience, by sound good sense, and by a kindly heart, but it contains not one word respecting the non-restraint question. If Sir William Ellis had introduced the non-restraint system at Hanwell, it is perfectly incredible that neither in his treatise, nor in his reports, he should have alluded to a fact of so striking and momentous a character that when it did occur, it strongly excited public attention, and gave occasion to general and animated discussion. But we are not compelled to rely on negative evidence alone to disprove Mr. Pownall's assertion, that Sir William Ellis was the introducer of the non-restraint system. The positive evidence consists in the fact, that when Dr. Conolly was appointed to the Hanwell

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asylum, he found the employment of mechanical restraint in vigorous and constant use. There was indeed an interval of about a year between the resignation of Sir William Ellis and the appointment of Dr. Conolly, but there is nothing to shew that this interval was remarkable for anything, except "a want of harmony and co-operation among the officers of the establishment, accompanied by a relaxed state of discipline and disorder."—*Visitors' Forty-ninth Report.*

The extent to which mechanical restraint was used in the Hanwell asylum, immediately before the appointment of Dr. Conolly, was illustrated by a memorandum supplied by Mrs. Bowden, the then matron to the institution, a lady, who devoted her remarkable energy of character, great experience, and mental power, to the zealous assistance of Dr. Conolly in his arduous undertaking. The following extract is from Dr. Conolly's second annual report :—

"A memorandum relative to restraints, furnished by Mrs. Bowden (late Miss Powell,) the matron, comprehends forty one cases, almost all of which were in *constant* restraint of some kind or other previous to September, 1839. Fourteen of these patients were almost always fastened in restraint chairs, and twenty were almost always in a kind of strait-waistcoat called *sleeves:* several were in complicated restraints, and some in a chair, and at the same time in sleeves, or the muff, or in leg-locks. All these patients were liberated before the end of September, 1839. Not one of them has been in restraint since."

In Dr. Conolly's first report, he gives the earliest notice of the non-restraint system at Hanwell in the following passage :—

"The article of treatment in which the Resident Physician has thought it expedient to depart the most widely from the previous practice of the asylum has been that which relates to the personal *coercion* or forcible *restraint* of the refractory patients. Without any intention of derogating from the high character acquired by the asylum, it appeared to him that the advantage resulting from the degree of restraint permitted and customary in it, at the period of his appointment, was in no respect proportionable to the frequency of its application."

Was it possible that the visiting justices of the Hanwell asylum could have adopted and presented to the Quarter Sessions, a report containing the above passage, if the non-restraint system had been introduced into the establishment by his predecessor. To any dispassionate mind, these extracts must be conclusive. The kind and amiable Sir William Ellis was a true benefactor to the insane; he was a good administrator, and a man of sound practical views; he introduced more than one important improvement in the management of asylums. We do not doubt, that under his superintendence, the patients at Hanwell enjoyed an im-

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munity from the more revolting kinds of restraint which were employed at other public asylums. Indeed we have reason to know, that Mr. Gaskell, now a Commissioner in Lunacy, who visited Hanwell at that time, recorded in the visitor's book, his satisfaction at the small amount of restraint which was then in use. We mention this fact without hesitation, since, after Dr. Conolly, no one has done so much for the general adoption of the non-restraint system as this able and energetic Commissioner. But it must be remembered, that Mr. Gaskell at the time mentioned, was himself unenlightened on this subject, and we know, from the report of the Lancashire asylum for 1854, that restraint was there employed habitually and extensively, until a time subsequently to Dr. Conolly's success at Hanwell. But not only was Mr. Gaskell unenlightened, all men were unenlightened; and it is no reproach to Sir William Ellis, that forty-one of his patients were in almost constant restraint of some kind or other, or to Mr. Gaskell, that he thought the amount of this restraint moderate and satisfactory. It was only at the small and comparatively unknown asylum at Lincoln, that the non-restraint system in its integrity had been known to and tested by Mr. Gardener Hill. Dr. Conolly discovered the discovery, appreciated its value and introduced it into the largest asylum in the kingdom: he adopted it as a cause, and through evil report and good report, he fought the hotly contested battle, until at last he has the proud satisfaction of seeing its truth realized, and its principles adopted in almost every institution in the kingdom.

Having proved our position from the reports of Dr. Conolly, which were adopted and printed by the visiting justices of Hanwell, we shall take the liberty to repeat the proof from the reports of the visiting justices themselves. The first notice they give of the non-restraint system is contained in their fifty-first report, presented to the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions, 1839.

"This leads your Committee to notice a very beneficial change which has been *introduced by the medical superintendent* in the management of the patients. They are induced to notice this, though it forms a part of the medical report, because it has entailed a trifling increase of expense by the employment of a greater number of keepers and nurses. The alteration consists in the substitution of vigilant superintendence for personal restraint, except perhaps on very rare occasions, and in extreme cases."

They proceed to report, that in consequence of this new system *introduced* by Dr. Conolly, the committee have employed nine additional keepers. In their fifty-second

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report they state, that they "have looked with anxious hope to the experiment which is *now under trial* by the resident physician." In their fifty-fifth report, 1840, the committee state themselves to be "anxiously *watching* the progress" which the new system is making; and referring to a serious illness of Dr. Conolly; "The committee cannot refrain from expressing a hope, that for the sake of the humane and judicious system which owes so much to his talent and exertion, his health may be speedily established." Further on they employ the following language, to which we sincerely trust that some of the visiting justices will draw Mr. Pownall's particular attention.

"When it is remembered that this is the only additional expense which legitimately belongs to the abolition of the old system of bodily coercion and instrumental restraint, and the substitution of the humane and enlightened treatment *which the resident physician has so successfully introduced*, the committee are satisfied that the impression of the Bench will rather be that of wonder at the insignificance of the amount, than surprise that such increase should be necessary."

"The Visiting Justices cannot conclude without calling the attention of the Court to the very valuable document drawn up by the resident physician, which will, in public opinion, give to their report its chief value. From this production of a master-mind the medical world will learn, not only the principles which have guided him *in carrying out to its full extent* one of the greatest improvements of modern times; but a valuable body of facts, by which they who have the care of similiar institutions, and are disposed to take the same enlightened path, may at once be prepared to obviate the difficulties, with which otherwise they might, not without great labour, have to contend."

These passages conclusively prove, that in the opinion of the visiting justices of Hanwell,

1st. That Dr. Conolly, and he alone, was the person who introduced the non-restraint system into that institution, and,

2ndly. That he succeeded in carrying it out to its full extent.

In the fifty-second report, the visiting justices have great pleasure in stating, that Dr. Conolly's health appears to be gradually amending.

"Every day's experience confirms the opinions they have long entertained of his great value to the asylum as a physician, *if the non-coercive system is to be established there*, and of his many estimable qualities as a man."

The visitors evidently felt when this report was written, that the establishment of the non-restraint system at Hanwell depended not upon themselves, but upon their physician. The first paragraph of the fifty-ninth report, 1841, contains a sentence which is conclusive against the claim put forward in behalf of Sir William Ellis. The visitors state in so many words that, "The system of non-

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restraint has been adopted for the last two years at Hanwell." At page 1839, they state by whom it had been adopted, thus, "The system *which had been adopted by the resident physician at Hanwell, and had been sanctioned by the visiting justices.*"

Further comments upon the extracts from the reports of the visiting justices of Hanwell would be superfluous; they prove conclusively, that whatever may be the opinion of the present chairman, the gentlemen who were the visiting justices of Hanwell asylum at the time when the experiment of the non-restraint system was made, believed, and recorded their belief, 1st., That this system was introduced and adopted at Hanwell by Dr Conolly, and it could not therefore have been partially carried out by his predecessor, since the carrying out of a system must be subsequent to its introduction. And 2nd, They believed, and recorded their belief, that this system was *carried out to its full extent* by Dr. Conolly. It could not therefore have been *partially* carried out by him, to be completed by Mr. Sergeant Adams. Palmam qui meruit ferat.

Chaplains in the Irish District Asylum for the Insane.

Belfast Asylum.

The long litigated question in connexion with the appointment of chaplains to the district asylums for the insane in the Sister Country has been at last brought to a close, by the Irish Court of Queen's Bench pronouncing judgment, unanimously, against the legality of such officials being attached to those institutions. The question, our readers are aware, was raised by the governors of the Belfast District Asylum, who persevered, unflinchingly, in the course they had been compelled to pursue, notwithstanding that the whole strength of the Irish Government was brought to bear against their manly, and what the sequel has proved most just, opposition to the enforcement by authority of stipendiary officers, considered by them not only unnecessary, but calculated to be prejudicial to the good working of the establishment. The case of the public asylums in Ireland for the insane, in respect of ministerial services, is so very different as compared with similar establishments both in England and Scotland, that no parallel can be drawn between them. Only one chaplain is requisite either in England or Scotland, whereas in Ireland three must be appointed. Each one of the antagonistic creeds of Episcopalianism, Presbyterianism, and Roman Catholicism, must be represented so that three distinct services of three separate religious bodies must be performed each Sunday instead of one, which amongst such an excitable community could scarcely be expected to produce the same satisfactory effects as if but one were to suffice. Under such circumstances the plan adopted in the Belfast Asylum of visits from the parochial clergy, in

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