side, as examples of board-room justice. The officers and attendants at the Cork asylum must be very thick skinned. We trust that the patients possess the like quality for the natural course of events will cause them to need it.

After these complaints were disposed of, the jocose Mr. Dowden became quite eloquent on "a complaint he had to make, they had no schoolmaster there," &c., "they could get one for twenty pounds a-year," "there is no doubt we pay a wretched price for mind." Alas, yes! One of the prices we pay is to have places of business converted into oratorical platforms, and our time wasted in listening to *bunkum* speeches. Bunkum, is the American term for those speeches in Congress, which are solely intended for the local newspapers, and the gratification of the friends and constituents of the orator. Bunkum occupies a vast space of time at St. Stephens, to the great hinderance of business; but if it invades successfully the board-rooms of asylums, gaols, unions, and other places, which ought to be centres of action alone, it will exalt throughout the country, the unpractical wind-bag man, above the man of affairs, and prove about the worst thing that ever came from the west.

The New State Asylum.

A site for the new State Asylum has been fixed on near the spot where the counties of Surrey, Berks, and Hants meet. It is about thirty miles from London, and is most accessible by the Branch of the South Eastern Railway, which connects Reading on the Great Western with Farnborough, on the South Western Railway. The State Insanery will be the subject of much attention; it may be a step in advance, or it may prove to be an expectation unfulfilled.

All counties are *equally* obliged to provide an asylum for their poor. These asylums are under the government of the Magistracy, and are liable to be made Police Asylums when the Secretary of State orders the removal of an insane patient from prison; or when the Magistrates need their care for wandering lunatics; for lunatics who are not under proper care and control, or are cruelly treated or neglected. These County Asylums are also termed Pauper Asylums. What will their relation be to the State Asylum? Equal accessibility will be impossible. Will any advantage be conceded to the adjacent or mtropolitan counties? or

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will the principle of management be the equalization of the expenses of removal, &c., and requiring of each county that it shall take charge of the lunatics, who fall into the custody of its police? In most counties the State Asylum will be inappropriate, and inconvenient for their ordinary needs in lunacy. The lunatic, who awaits his trial, or has recently manifested insanity, needs to be in an asylum or hospital, easily accessible to the County Magistracy and Constabulary. The patient, who has been treated in the County Asylum, and has passed the most dangerous crisis of his lunacy in its charge, will not *ordinarily* need that great expense shall be incurred for his subsequent removal to the State Asylum. If a criminal manifests insanity subsequently to his conviction, he, being insane, needs the care of the most easily accessible hospital for the insane. The punishment awarded to the criminal is inapplicable to the man of unsound mind. He should, on recovery, be transferred to the State Asylum, before punishment can be resumed towards him. It will often happen that dangerous lunatics will be found in asylums or licensed houses, who have, by the care of their friends, never been allowed to bring themselves to the cognizance of the police. Will all these insane persons be admissible to the State Asylum because the commission of a criminal act cannot be imputed to them? The term and treatment "Criminal" should be inapplicable to the insane; and the official Visitors of any asylum should be allowed to recommend the removal of a lunatic to the State Asylum, whenever it appears to them that the asylum, in which he is placed, is inadequate to his proper charge. The County Asylum refuses to be classed as a place of safe custody. It no longer receives inmates for detention; the order for the admission of a patient now requires his reception for care and treatment; neither does it allow to its inmates two classes of care and treatment; the "Lunatic, not being a pauper, shall have the same accommodation in all respects as the pauper lunatic." The state lunatic may be of high rank, and dangerous; or he may be a vagrant, accustomed to a life of vice and demoralised. Will the insane gentleman be allowed to provide, at his own cost, accommodation and observances suitable to his education, or will the plea of insanity debase him and elevate his uneducated fellow misfortunate to the same level?

WILLIAM LEY.

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