four cases in a labourer's cottage, and characterises it as a retrograde step in the treatment of the insane. We entirely agree with him. These cases are ostensibly under inspection quarterly or half-yearly, but no such inspection will ensure the proper treatment of the idiotic for sixpence a day in the houses of strangers, undertaken for pecuniary profit.

We can only hope that the public arrangements for the treatment of the insane will soon be completed in the spirit of the great Lunacy Act of 1845. It is easy to understand that while these are incomplete the medical minds of this department cannot be at leisure to do their best in the strictly medical treatment of insanity.—*The Lancet*, October 19.

L'empereur d'Autriche chez le baron Mundy.

L'empereur François-Joseph a quitté aujourd'hui la France, emportant le meilleur souvenir de l'accueil qu'il y a reçu, et qu'a singulièrement favorisé le plus magnifique temps qui se soit jamais vu en cette saison. Les chroniqueurs ont suivi ses pas, recueilli ses paroles, à l'Exposition comme ailleurs; mais, suivant leur imperturbable coutume, ils ont négligé les épisodes les plus sérieux de ses courses. Ils ont noté, par exemple, que l'empereur avait visité la brasserie viennoise, et ils se sont bien gardé de dire (sauf le chroniqueur du *Petit-Journal*), qu'en sortant de là, il s'était rendu dans la maison-modèle du docteur baron Mundy, et avait eu avec cet exposant, qui est chirurgien-major de 1re classe dans l'armée autrichienne un long entretien.

Telle est pourtant l'histoire vraie. L'empereur a visité avec le plus sérieux intérêt le plan et les détails de la maison-modèle pour le traitement des aliénés en famille; il a demandé à l'exposant des explications précises et les a écoutées avec la plus grande bienveillance; il a accepté de la meilleure grâce notre livre sur *Gheel*, richement relié, que le docteur lui a offert en son propre nom. Enfin, comme témoignage de sa haute satisfaction, S. M. l'a nommé commandeur de son ordre de François-Joseph. Cette visite prolongée et attentive a dédommagé un peu le zélé réformateur de la psychiatrie de l'oubli où l'ont laissé les jurés, qui n'nont pas même daigné jeter un coup d'œil sur son ingénieuse et coûteuse installation, non plus que sur les études approfondies qui la complétaient. Mais ils ont eu bien d'autres distractions. Que la terre du Champ-de-Mars leur soit légère, comme l'est la reconnaissance de beaucoup d'exposants!

Quant à M. Mundy, ses travaux et ses dépenses ne seront pas perdus pour la science. Outre l'immense propagande qui résulte de son exposition, visitée par 2 à 300,000 curieux, il va reprendre à Vienne le cours de sa propagande. Il ouvrira prochainement dans cette ville une série de cinq leçons sur la *colonisation des aliénés*. Cet enseignement sera complété par deux autres cours, l'un sur les *institutions sanitaires en Europe et en Amérique*, l'autre sur la *médecine légale de l'aliénation;* enfin il lira des chapitres choisis sur la *phrénopathie*. Ces cours auront lieu, les uns dans l'Académie Joséphine, les autres à l'Université de Vienne.—*L'Economist Français*, 7 Novembre.

Epileptic Kleptomania.

Will Dr. Maudsley, Dr. Forbes Winslow, or any other of our distinguished alienists, inform us as to the etiology of that singular affection which has been described as *epileptical kleptomania?* The malady is, we fear, one which is

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to some serious extent epidemic, and since those who suffer from it appear to be legally irresponsible as to the rights of "*meum et tuum*," it would be as well that some steps should be taken to clear the matter up. The two "respectably connected youths" who were convicted before Mr. Elliott of stealing from the stalls in the Crystal Palace, were discharged with an admonition only, because the testimony showed them to be afflicted with this very remarkable disease. It is so much the fashion now to criticise the "justice's justice" of the magistrates' courts, that we feel disposed to be critical as to Mr. Elliott's procedure in the case. If these "respectably connected" youths were really the victims of a recognised malady, it is clear that they deserved rather the sympathy than the censure of the bench; but, of course, if *epileptical kleptomania* be a euphemism for petty larceny, it is equally clear that an admonition was a sentence of the most exquisitely kid-glove character. We are anxious to see this interesting point in mental pathology more clearly defined.—*Medical Times and Gazette*, November 30.

A Memorandum on the Pay, Position, and Education of Assistant Medical Officers of Asylums. By Professor Laycock, M.D.

No one doubts that practitioners in general would be much better able to fulfil their duties towards the insane if they were better educated in the theory and practice of medicine as to mental diseases. With this useful object the University of London has lately recommended this special study to candidates for its medical degree, and certain medical schools have established Lectureships of either Medical Psychology or Mental Disease, two departments which may be considered respectively as the theory and practice of mental medicine or psychiatry. From the few inquiries I have made, I gather that the attendance on these Lectureships is exceedingly small, except in Edinburgh, and there, although in an exceptionally favorable position, the attendance is also very small compared with the number of students. The truth is that medical students in general have no encouragement whatever to engage in the study, except the remote and indirect advantages it offers.

It might be supposed that appointments to asylums as assistant medical officers, with the prospect of promotion to be medical superintendents, would be inducements, but they are not. Above 200 students have passed through my own class during the last nine years, and a good proportion have been offered such appointments, yet many have declined the offer.

Now, the education of the assistants mean, not only the education of the future generation of superintendents, but also the better aid and careful of existing superintendents. I have used the phrase "*better* aid and careful" designedly, that I might not be supposed to throw any doubt upon the zeal and efficiency of their assistants generally, and I think, from this point of view, we shall be all agreed as to the value to an assistant of a special training in the theory and practice of medicine in mental diseases, so that we have only to consider how that end shall be best attained. Now, since without students lectureships will not be carried on, it follows that students must be induced to pursue the special study, otherwise the very means of education will not be forthcoming. Now, my experience of those who have followed it in my own class is, first, that for the most part (not altogether) they are first-class men, attracted to the study for its own sake; and second, that the position, pay, and prospects of assistant medical officers of asylums are such that an appointment of that kind is not worth their notice, in comparison

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