and as such continued its use for six or nine months in succession, with the best results. It had seemed greatly to aid in promoting the nutritive process, patients sometimes gained flesh rapidly under its use. He had employed the English extract of conium, Tilden's extract (*in vacuo*), and also Lee and Butler's extract. There seemed to be no very essential difference in the qualities of these preparations. He generally used the conium in combination with Vallet's proto-carbonate of iron—fifteen grains of the extract with five grains of the iron, three times a day. A minimum dose was given at first, and gradually increased to the amount mentioned.

Dr. Curwen stated that in eight hundred and ten cases treated at his institution, venesection had not been resorted to in a single instance; on the other hand, he had seen very injurious effects in cases bled previously to their admission into the Hospital. Restoration was retarded in all, and it rendered many hopelessly insane.

Dr. Gray concurred in the views of Drs. Kirkbride and Butler. He had treated more than two thousand patients, but had never used venesection. Neither had he ever found it necessary to give antimony, though he should not hesitate to prescribe it if it seemed to be indicated. He had not used shower-baths for four years. Frequently applied cold to the head during the administration of the warm bath.

Dr. Choate remarked, in answer to the questions of Drs. Kirkbride and Earle, that he never made use of tartarized antimony as a substitute for restraint, and did not deem it justifiable treatment. He had never used shower-baths, and had no means of administering them in the Taunton Hospital; and that, in the treatment of about eight hundred patients, he had never resorted to venesection.

The Custody of the Insane Poor.

The world is scarcely twelve months older since it was astonished and distressed by the Report of the Scottish Lunacy Commission. Scottish members of parliament were eloquently indignant at its plain spoken exposure, of the penurious and cruel neglect, to which the insane poor of that country were subject; people were grieved and scandalized, that such a state of things could be possible in the present day, and the English press was by no means lenient in its censures upon a public economy, which could degenerate into a system of wide-spread cruelty. It is, however, a wholesome practice in contemplating the failings of others, to permit

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them to remind us of our own past transgressions, and of our present short-comings. The insane poor of Scotland were treated with barbarous neglect, because the state had omitted to extend to them its protection; and they were consequently provided for on principles of pauper economy, in the manner most consistent with the views of those who dole out the poor rate to its destitute recipients. But a few short years since, the pauper insane of rich and civilized England were equally unprotected by special enactments of parliament. They were maintained out of the poor's rate in the manner which seemed best to the poor-law officers. How this was done is to some extent recorded in the parliamentary enquiries of 1815,and in the early reports of the Commissioners in Lunacy. It was found by dire experience, that the custody of the insane poor could not be entrusted to those who are compelled by law to find the funds for their maintenance. The legislature interfered, and by wise and humane enactments, transferred all custodian power over the pauper insane, from overseers and guardians of the poor, to the connty magistracy, to that influential, wide-spread, and educated justiciary, to whom so large a share in the administration of English law and justice is committed. Under these enactments, the English County Asylums have been erected and managed in a manner which has met with the highest approval of the public. The deficient accommodation, however, of these asylums and the rapid increase of pauper lunacy, again brings prominently forward the question of the custodianship of the insane poor. In every part of the country, frequent applications are made, for the discharge of so-called "chronic and harmless lunaties" from county asylums, in order that they may be detained in custody in union houses. The poor-law board returns for last year shew that there are no less than 8,600 insane paupers at present confined in union houses, being more than one-half as many as the pauper inmates of county and borough asylums. For the most part the insane inmates of union houses, are distributed among the sane inmates. Far be it from us to stigmatize the companionship of the insane, as necessarily degrading and painful. Under skilful management it is certain that the habits of many insane persons are as little offensive, and their companionship as unobjectionable, as that of persons in whom the reason holds it throne. But in union houses where skilful management of the insane is impossible, the promiscuous association of pauperism and insanity is every way objectionable. It is a flagrant injustice to those sane persons, whom misfortune

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has thrown upon the support of the poor's rate, to be compelled to associate by night and day with the dirty and drivelling idiot, with the moping melancholiac, or the chronic madman, who may appear to be harmless and safe, but whom many serious and fatal accidents in union houses and elsewhere, proves to be most untrustworthy under the unhappy circumstances of hunger, neglect and irritation. To the insane pauper, the run of the union house in place of care and treatment in an asylum, is a thorough denial of his rights; rights to which he has a claim, as well-founded as the clergyman has to his tythes, or the landlord to his rent, or the tenant to the usufruct of his land.

In some counties, where the asylum accommodation is greatly inadequate to the numbers of the insane poor, special lunatic wards have been established in the larger union houses; and we find, by some papers which have been sent

* The following letter which we have just received from an old patient of our own, expresses with graphic force the wretchedness resulting from the detention of the chronic insane in workhouses. It was written from a workhouse which we believe to be under management as liberal as is consistant with the proper function of such an establishment, and from an union the guardians of which we know to be more than ordinarily indulgent to their insane poor.

"——— Workhouse, March 3rd, 1858.

SIR, Several months ago I wrote to you from this place. I was confined here then from the 25th of February, 1856, to the 17th of January, 1857; during that time sir, God only knows what I suffered; the parochial authorities let me out after that time with a half-a-crown a week, for which I was very thankful, and by being industrious in my own way I was able to keep a comfortable little home, and entered into a business that would in time have kept me independent of the parish, which I can prove by more than fifty witnesses; owing to a little trouble I had I fell into a weakness, but instead of being detained in the workhouse I ought to have been sent to the asylum for a few weeks; on applying for my discharge I was told to make myself certain of never going out again. I was to remain in the workhouse as my future home and make myself useful as I should never be let out again. Observe Sir, how incapable I must have been considered when it was proposed to me to be put in as a nurse over the patients, and the last time I was detained here I was ordered to go as a under-nurse to the nurse of the lying-in ward and learn midwifery as I must remain here. By the living God I would not remain here for a thousand a year. A workhouse is a most unfit place for any person afflicted on the nerves, and is calculated to unhinge the soundest much less a nervous person. Sir, I was under the care of the late Dr. Baird, of Liverpool for nervousness, and his orders to my husband were these, generous diet, perfect quietude, change of air and scene, and above all a perfect freedom from restraint; under auspices so favourable I recovered and was able to conduct my affairs in a proper manner because I went in and out and done as I liked and had nobody to controul me. Here Sir I am called "Cracky" and "an Impostor on the parish," by the other paupers; the excitement, the imprisonment, the living and wretchedness, the perpetual sameness of the workhouse is too much for me, I must have a change. Do Sir interfere and have me removed to the asylum or discharged. I hear every parish is to have a local asylum to save expense, for humanity's sake Sir lift up your voice against it.

I remain, Sir, your humble servant,

N. M."

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us from Lancashire, that it is proposed to obviate the necessity of increasing asylum accommodation in that county, by the general establishment of these workhouse wards. In a memorial from the guardians of the Bolton Union to the Justices of the Peace for Lancashire, it is broadly stated that the custody of the insane poor in asylums ought to be limited to the acute and curable period of the malady, or one sufficient for testing the curability, like the twelve months' residence at Bethlem. The guardians state that the detention of chronic patients in asylums, "is virtually a species of imprisonment not contemplated or intended by any of the acts relating to lunatics;" and that by the Lunatic Asylums Act, sect. 79 and 80, which imposes a penalty of £10 upon relieving officers in default of removing patients who may be discharged from county asylums, "the obligation for the future treatment of such persons is cast upon the guardians." And they call upon the Justices of the Peace for the county to direct "the Visiting Justices to require, as the Act of Parliament above referred to points out, all union officers forthwith to remove the lunatics whose cases are of a hopeless and irrecoverable character." As the reasoning faculties which could read the Act of Parliament in this fashion are, without doubt, "hopeless and irrecoverable," we shall not attempt to shew that the guardians of Bolton have utterly perverted the meaning of the act. Their memorial, however, is markworthy as an indication of the opinions and claims of the Poor Law Guardians in Lancashire. It is certainly most untrue that the lunacy act casts upon the guardians any obligation of the future treatment of insane paupers who are not cured in a testing period, as at Bethlem; but the "rough and tumble" administration of the law has practically placed in their hands the custody and treatment of the insane poor, anterior to their admission into the county asylum. When a poor person is struck with insanity, it has become the custom to transmit him to the union house, and not, as the act enjoins, to send him direct to the asylum. If it is a quiet case of melancholia or mania, he is apt to be detained in the workhouse lunatic ward, until the period of curability is passed. If it is a case of senile dementia, or general paralysis, or troublesome epilepsy, or mischievous and destructive idiocy, without the shadow of a chance of cure, he is too often forwarded to occupy the precious vacancies in the county asylum. The guardians of Bolton, indeed, admit that they detain proper patients from the asylum. The regulation of the Visiting

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Justices to refuse the discharge of "such lunatics as are deemed incurable," "prevents," they say, "the commitment of proper subjects for such asylums, from an apprehension of the impracticability of obtaining their release." Surely, upon their own showing, the guardians of Bolton are not the persons upon whom the Legislature ought to cast the obligation of the treatment of the insane at any time; and, least of all, at a time when the apprehension of prolonged expense is sufficient to induce them to detain a curable patient from the influences of curative treatment.

The guardians of the poor of Bolton are not a favourable specimen of the class they represent, which we know by long acquaintance contains a large proportion of high-minded and benevolent men, who discharge very unpleasant duties with great conscientiousness, and with as much liberality as justice to their constituents and the nature of the poor-law admits. To such guardians we should be glad to suggest, that the formation of lunatic wards in union houses is inexpedient and, even apart from the question of cure, not economical.

It is inexpedient, because it is contrary to the law, and tends to great abuse. An insane person is confined in an asylum under strict legal provision and supervision. He can only be admitted on the validity of documents stringently observed. He is placed in the custody of public officers, duly accredited for that purpose, and rendered liable by statute to heavy fines and prosecutions for misdemeanours, if they discharge their duty in a neglectful or cruel manner, or in regard to the formalities of the law, incorrectly. While under detention, he is provided with care and treatment, so kind and liberal as to afford the greatest amount of indulgence and happiness, at an expense which the large numbers dealt with, alone renders possible, and which, tested by the security afforded to the public by his detention and by the advantages afforded to himself by his treatment, must be considered moderate and reasonable.

His detention is controlled, and his treatment inspected by the Justices of the Peace, who have the general interest of country gentlemen in the county expenditure, but have no personal interest in the expense incurred by any individual patient, who, moreover, are recognised by the constitution as the smaller justiciaries, the administrators of the public law.

On the other hand, an insane person confined in the lunatic ward of a workhouse, is detained in the absence of all legal forms, and, indeed, in opposition to all legal rule and precedent, as it affects the liberty of the subject. There is no

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doubt that any person so detained would have his remedy in an action for false imprisonment, and it is not improbable that the question we are discussing, may before long take this form. An individual is taken into custody by a relieving officer, carried to an union house, locked up in a room, and kept there by the master of the house for days, or weeks, or years. He is said to be insane. Who knows that to be the fact? There is no medical certificate, or medical superintendent's report. There is nothing to prevent false imprisonment from ignorance or worse being inflicted in this guise upon a person perfectly sane. A relieving officer has no more right to take a person against whom he alleges insanity, and lock him up in a workhouse, than he has to take him to the common gaol. His duty strictly defined by the law, is to take him *forthwith* to a Justice of the Peace, and then, under his order, and with the proper medical certificate, to transmit him to the asylum. But the ordinary inmates of union houses may become insane, and the master may detain them in custody on that account, or that pretext. Is even this consistent with the liberty of the subject? We have heard that persons perfectly sane, have, in this manner, been deprived of their liberty; and when the lunacy law is so stringent that a man cannot remove his insane wife or child for change of air to a seaside lodging-house, without medical certificates and reports to the Commissioners in Lunacy; when the liberty of the subject is so jealously guarded in all that relates to the custody of the insane elsewhere; it does appear monstrous that places for lunatic detention should be irregularly established in the very houses whose legitimate function renders them most liable to the suspicion and jealousy of the poorer population. If lunatic workhouse wards are to be tolerated, let them at least be placed under the legal control which long experience has proved to be essential to prevent abuse in depriving persons of liberty under the pretext of insanity.

But what would be the conditions upon which the public expressing itself through the houses of parliament, might consent to legalize the establishment of a small pauper lunatic asylum in every workhouse? and what would be the effect of such asylum upon the workhouse system? It is certain that the establishment of such wards will never receive the sanction of the law, as long as they remain what they are at present; so long as they are defective in every requisite for the proper care and comfort of the most harmless and chronic of the insane poor; so long as their condition justifies the sweeping

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condemnation of the Commissioners in Lunacy, contained in their tenth report. "In fact these wards become places for the detention of lunatics, without containing any of the safeguards and appliances, which a well constructed and well managed lunatic asylum affords, and we have abstained from giving any official sanction or encouragement to their construction." The account given by the Commissioners of the condition in which they have universally found these workhouse wards, entirely justifies their severe censure, and is sufficient to convince any humane and thoughtful person, that to incarcerate a poor creature, whose only offence is that he is a charge upon the public property, and who is unfortunate enough not only to be insane, but also to be amiable and harmless in his madness, to incarcerate such a person in these gloomy and abject receptacles, is to inflict upon him a cruel injustice.

The workhouse wards, have none of those safeguards and appliances, which are essential not only to the cure, but to the comfortable detention of the insane; their internal arrangements and furniture are mean and deficient, they present no means of classification, and the quiet and nervous melancholiac, is in them necessarily subjected to the noisy and turbulent conduct to which the most chronic insane are liable, to the offensive habits of the paralytic and demented, and to the terrifying aspect of epileptic convulsions, there are no well-trained and skilful attendants, no ever present and experienced medical advice, no occupation, no recreation, no attempts to diversify the monotony of a long imprisonment. Add to this, that outside the gloomy walls, there are no pleasant gardens and pleasure grounds, nothing at best but the sombre aspect of a small prison-like court yard; that the influences of a coarse and meagre dietary, and the untold stigma of pauperism, are conjoined to the hopeless sentence of incurable insanity, and a condition of human existence is attained, whose abject wretchedness it would not be easy to surpass. The cure of insanity is without doubt, the first object of care and treatment in asylums; but the amelioration of the symptoms of mental disease, and the diminution of suffering in the most afflicted of our fellow-men, is an object of scarcely secondary importance; and that skilful and liberal arrangements are essential to this purpose, is beyond doubt or question. From our own experience we can state, that on three occasions we have received into the asylum from which we write, the whole population of six large workhouse wards; on two of these occasions we visited these patients shortly

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before their removal; and we found their condition truly pitiable. After a short residence in the asylum, the whole character of these patients underwent a most gratifying change. In a wretched moping man who appeared to be idiotic, and whose companion for years had been a dangerous idiot wearing fetters on his legs, we found an accomplished musician and a gentleman. He believes himself the Prince of Wales, and is hopelessly insane; but now he is happier than most sane people, delights us with his performances on the piano forte, and acts regularly as the organist to our chapel. When brought to the asylum he assured us that for seven years he had never seen a book or a newspaper, or had enjoyed any means of occupation, mental or physical. This man is a hopeless and harmless lunatic; but will it be asserted that on that account a small economy of those public funds upon which he has a claim, justifies the infliction upon him of a life of misery and hardship, when one of comparative happiness can be well and cheaply procured? Idiots we found with ulcerations on the back, from lying on wet and dirty straw; even these in the asylum lead a cleanly and more human existence, so far above the one they previously led, that no one with opportunities to compare the two, would venture to estimate the difference at the value of a few shillings per week.

If workhouse wards are to receive the sanction of the public and the law, they must undoubtedly be made very different to what they have been, and to what they are. At least four wards must be provided in each union, two for each sex, in order that some slight attempt at classification may be made; proper furniture and appliances, such as baths and water-closets, must be provided; skilled and fairly paid attendants, and frequent medical visitations, must be procured; decent clothing, a liberal dietary, and proper exercising grounds, must be given; in fact, none of the means and appliances of a small and well-conducted asylum can be dispensed with; and, under such circumstances, where will be the economy to the ratepayers, and the advantage of having twenty small asylums in a county, instead of one large one? Moreover, as we have said in referring to this subject in the third volume of this journal, page 497, "it is deserving of consideration, whether the introduction of liberally conducted lunatic wards into a union workhouse would not interfere with its legitimate scope and object. A workhouse is the test of destitution. To preserve its social utility, its economy must always be conducted on a parsimonious scale. No luxuries must be permitted within its sombre walls; even the

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comforts and conveniences of life must be maintained in it below the average of those attainable by the industry of the labouring poor. How can a liberally-conducted lunatic ward be engrafted upon such a system? It would leaven the whole lump with the taint of liberality, and the so-called pauper bastile would, in the eyes of the unthrifty and indolent poor, be deprived of the reputation which drives them from its portals." On the question of economy alone, we have long entertained the opinion for which, although we may not be able to prove it, we can yet shew good reasons—that, irrespective of the chances of cure, to keep a lunatic pauper in a workhouse is usually no saving to the ratepayers. A comparison founded upon the maintenance charges in a workhouse and in an asylum is utterly fallacious. The maintenance charges of a workhouse are averaged upon adults, infants, and children, of whom the latter frequently constitute a very large proportion of the inmates. Moreover, the maintenance charges in workhouses do not include the expenses of the staff, and various other expenses which are included in those of county asylums. Some years ago, a gentleman who was the clerk to the largest union in Devonshire, and is now the clerk to the largest union in London, had the kindness to ascertain for us, as nearly as it was possible to do so, the actual cost of an adult pauper resident in the union house. This was obtained by adding the charges made to the parish on account of the maintenance of the pauper, to the common charge made to every parish in the union on account of the maintenance of the establishment; and by estimating the proportion of the expenditure entailed by adult inmates and that of the infants and children separately. The result was, that every adult inmate of the workhouse was estimated to cost 5s. per week; the cost in the asylum at that time, being 8s. per week.

But the average cost of adult inmates of the union house by no means represents the cost of the maintenance of a chronic lunatic, even under the most penurious management. Do what you will, the care of an insane person will always entail cost. If instead of the comfort and satisfaction of a good dietary and liberal treatment, his belly is pinched, he will become destructive to clothing and property; if he is not properly provided with attendance, he will become filthy in his habits; he is more than others, liable to diseases, which imperatively demand expensive extra diet and nursing. A magistrate used frequently to ask us on what grounds a certain idiot, he had sent into an asylum, should cost 8s. a-week

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while in the union house he had been provided with all he wanted for 2s.? As the enquiry was frequently repeated, we thought it worth while to enquire into the state of the idiot when in the union-house, and we found that he was in the constant habit not only of tearing his own clothing, but every article of clothing upon which he could lay his hands; so that in fact the actual cost of this idiot was greatly more when he was in the union-house than it was afterwards, because, when under the attendance provided in the asylum, his destructive propensities were converted into coir and oakum picking. We may conclude, that if the average cost of the adult inmates of the union workhouse is 5s. per week, the actual cost of any insane inmates will not be less than 8s. per week in the same place.

In regarding the question from this point of view, it must not be forgotten that the maintenance charges for the inmates of pauper asylums, are founded upon the average cost of large numbers, including many who are quiet and harmless, and many whose industrial earnings would form no small set-off to the cost of their actual maintenance. The average includes on the other hand, the violent and acute cases of insanity, and the sick and helpless, whose extra attendance, diet and necessaries, entail an expenditure greatly beyond the sum charged for their maintenance. The Bolton guardians refer to the system adopted at Bethlem, where recent cases only are kept under treatment; but they are probably not aware that the actual cost of the treatment of a patient at Bethlem, is more than twice as much as that charged for the maintenance of a patient in the Lancashire asylums. If the harmless and chronic inmates were excluded from the Lancashire asylums, the rate-payers whose interests are misrepresented by these guardians, would be called upon to pay twice as much as at present, for the care and treatment of the insane poor in these asylums. The fact is, that the proper care and treatment of acute insanity is unavoidably costly, that the proper care and treatment of chronic insanity is much less so, but still far beyond that of the mere maintenance of a sane person; that owing to the large numbers over whom expenses are distributed, and to the economy of good management, the actual cost of a chronic lunatic properly cared for, and supplied with a good dietary, in a county asylum, is not greater than that of a chronic lunatic, supplied with a coarse and scanty dietary, and detained in neglect and wretchedness as the inmate of a union workhouse. If the chronic insane are to be provided with proper care and treatment, their main-

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tenance in small and scattered asylums, attached to union workhouses, will necessarily be greater than that for which it can be effected, under the more complete organization of a central establishment.

We must yet refer to one opinion which has been positively advanced by some guardians in Lancashire, namely, that the pauper insane do not require a better dietary than that meagre subsistence which the laws of the country give to every destitute person as a right. They say that the workhouse dietary is quite good enough for chronic and harmless lunatics. We agree with them that it is good enough, if the object is to punish insanity with death, and to disembarrass themselves of the burden of the insane poor by the effectual means of an immensely increased mortality.

The insane cannot live on a low diet, and while they continue to exist their lives are rendered wretched by it, owing to the irritability which accompanies mental disease. The assimilating functions in chronic insanity are sluggish and imperfect, and a dietary upon which sane people would retain good health becomes in them the fruitful source of dysentery and other forms of fatal disease. Pinel has left an instructive lesson upon the fatal results of the parsimony which existed in the Bicêtre in the year four. The diet in the Bicêtre, under the Constituent Assembly, was fixed at a kilogramme of bread daily. In the fourth year of the Republic, it was reduced to seven hectogrammes and a half. "And," says Pinel, "I have seen many convalescent patients relapse into a state of fury, crying that they were dying of hunger. The sad progress of misery was still more marked in its subsequent effects. In two months the number of deaths in the asylum was twenty-nine; while in the whole year two, it was only twenty-seven. In the Salpetrière, the consequences were still more deplorable; a mortality of fifty-six having occurred in that hospital in the winter of the year four, from dysentery, brought on by insufficient diet."

In Dr. Thurnam's work on the statistics of the insane, page 95, is the following valuable testimony as to the effects of diet upon the insane:

"The seven asylums may be fairly divided into two groups, in one of which the diet is, or was at the time to which the table refers, considerably above, and in the other considerably below, the average diet of the county asylums as a class. The first group includes the three establishments for the counties of Nottingham, Stafford and Gloucester; the second, those of Lancaster, (this together with

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Hanwell, has been materially improved) the West Riding of York, Suffolk, and Middlesex. The difference in the amount of the diet in the two groups, is in the first group, as regards solid food, the diet was 50 per cent. better than that in the second. In the relative amount of solid food, considered separately, the difference amounted to 130 per cent. In the three asylums with the more liberal diet, we find that the recoveries averaged 43.7 per cent., and that the mean mortality was 9.35 per cent.; whilst in the four institutions, in which the diet was less liberal and nutritious, the recoveries only averaged 36.75 per cent., and the mean mortality was as high as 14.54 per cent."

A more recent example is afforded in the Thirty-ninth Report of the Stafford Lunatic Asylum, just published. The Commissioners in Lunacy, who visited this asylum last year, report that an epidemic of the mucus membrane of the bowels had prevailed, which had proved fatal in twelve cases. They attributed much of this illness to the low state of the health of the inmates, and the poor and insipid soup which formed the dietary on three days of the week. They recommended meat to be subtituted for this broth. In the report of the Visitors, signed by their Chairman, the Earl of Talbot, it is stated: "Acting upon the recommendation of the Commissioners in Lunacy, and well aware of the exhausting nature of insanity, we have increased the dietary scale; and the amount of animal food now supplied weekly, namely, thirty ounces of meat cooked, and free from bone, has proved of service in maintaining the health of the patients."

We must conclude by expressing our opinion, that much of the present dissatisfaction which exists in Lancashire, Middlesex, and elsewhere, has arisen from the dilatory and partial manner in which the justices have discharged the duties imposed upon them by the Legislature. It was their clear duty to provide asylum accommodation for all the insane poor chargeable to parishes in the county who needed care and treatment. This they have not done, and in default of asylum accommodation, the guardians of the poor have been compelled to establish workhouse lunatic wards.

In the county from which we write, no insane pauper brought to the doors, with the legal papers for admission, has been refused admission since the asylum was opened, thirteen years ago. The consequence has been, that there is not a workhouse lunatic ward in the county; and even the workhouse wards belonging to boroughs not contributing to the county rate, have one by one been absorbed into the county asylum; and we are happy to give the guardians in this

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county, generally, the credit of possessing wise and humane views with regard to the care and treatment of the chronic insane, which we should be glad to see in the guardians of of the poor in more wealthy and populous counties.

In the county of Lancashire, a special committee of fourteen Justices of the Peace has been appointed to report to the Quarter Sessions on the most feasible manner of suppyling the increase of asylum accommodation, which is so urgently needed in that county. They have unanimously recommended that the sum of £12,000 shall be expended in enlargement of the Rainhill Asylum, near Liverpool, by the addition of detatched buildings after the manner adopted in the Devon Asylum, and described in the first article of this number. These buildings with additional single rooms to the main building, and some increase of accomodation in the asylum offices, are estimated at the moderate sum of £12,000 for 256 patients. It is the expenditure of this sum which has excited the ire of the Guardians of Bolton. We cannot believe that the Justices of Lancashire will permit any delay in carrying out the recommendation of their committee. At the present time there are 150 pauper lunatics chargeable to the parishes in Lancashire, in the private asylum at Haydock Lodge, at which the charge for their maintenance is 13s a week; the charge at the Rainhill County Asylum being 8s 9d a week. There are 900 lunatics and idiots confined in the union work-houses in Lancashire, many of whom are known to be most improper objects of such places of detention, and urgently in need of the care and treatment of an asylum. It appears most desirable that these pauper lunatics out of asylums should be placed under the immediate inspection of the Magistracy, and that legislative powers, should, without delay, be given to the Justices of the Peace, extending their powers over all the pauper insane whether in asylum or not. It is only by placing all the pauper insane under one authority, and that authority the most responsible and trustworthy, that the care and treatment provided in the county asylums can be extended to all proper objects, and that the best arrangements can be made for tranquil and unimproveable cases for whom the safe-guards and appliances of an asylum are not indispensable.

J. C. B.

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