6. *Asylum Treatment of Epilepsy.*

"With this malady (epilepsy) every form and grade of mental alienation is associated, from the gay mania and exalted delusions of the general paralytic downwards to the intellectual inanity of the idiot or solitary.

"Epileptics (apart from peculiar proneness to what have been called vicious habits and propensities) require constant and unremitting observation, on account of their liability to injuries by falling during the paroxysms, and tendency in the stages of delirious excitement to beat themselves against the walls or furniture.

"The curability of epilepsy is again asserted, as it has been in an intermittent way, since the times of Celsus and Galen. The writer of this report has little hope or expectation that a specific remedy for this hitherto intractable disease will be discovered, remembering the eulogiums formerly passed on digitalis, oil of turpentine, and nitrate of silver, and lately, on the cotelydon umbilicus and phosphorus.

"The tincture of sumbul root, recommended with much modesty and candour by Dr. Boyd, of the Somerset Asylum, has been given in several cases without benefit. In many hospitals for the insane, in the south of France especially, the concentrated juice of the galium mollugo, or heath-bed straw, a common British plant, is a favorite and highly commended remedy.

"The superintendent hopes to give this specific (as it is asserted to be) a trial during the summer."—*Dr. H. O. Stevens, Second Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent of the City and County of Bristol Lunatic Asylum,* 1863.

7. *Opening of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Asylum at Garlands.*

Dr. W. P. Kirkman (since translated to the Kent Asylum) presented his first report to the visitors of the Cumberland Asylum at the January sessions, 1863. Dr. Kirkman passes the following opinion on the building:

"Generally speaking, the building is well adapted for most of the purposes required. It would almost have been impossible, however, to avoid deficiencies and errors at first, which betray themselves in process of time. A serious item is the inadequate amount of day accommodation; in consequence of which one apartment on each side, constructed as a dormitory for four persons, has already been adopted as a day-room. Such features as this, of course, tend to

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