present, it can only be regarded as an evil which it is a public duty to mitigate as much as may be possible.

### *Roman Catholic Middle Class Lunatic Asylums.*

THERE is no hospital or asylum at all for Catholic patients of moderate or limited means, where they would be cared for by members of their own faith, or visited by a priest, though there are probably at least 700 Catholic lunatics in England, by whom such an establishment is needed. The question is, as we have said before, are Catholics prepared to permit this state of things to continue? What have they done, or what are they willing to do, to remedy it? We may be quite sure, now that attention has been called to the existing want of middle-class accommodation for lunatics, that suitable hospitals will be quickly forthcoming; indeed, with an enterprising energy which does them honour, efforts in that direction have already been made by numerous individuals; plans have been drawn out, the necessary calculations have been made, and we may expect soon to see the visible fruits of their labours. But it should be distinctly understood, that the promoters and organisers of such schemes being Protestants, there will not be the smallest element of Catholic control in carrying them out, neither will the poorer patients of our own faith be one whit benefited by such measures. It may here be stated, that in insanity, more frequently than in almost any other disease, there is a quiet and lucid interval just before death; is it right that we should by neglect prevent these our poorer brethren, so afflicted on earth, to depart this life with none near to offer the last rites of the Church? Will Catholics still sit with their arms folded and do nothing in this matter? It is true that a minority, which has long been treated with severity and injustice, is apt to degenerate into a chronic state of apathy and almost hopelessness; but it is an evil sign when the vanquished become as the dead. In the sister island, Government has hitherto, we regret to say, thought it expedient to deny us a charter for our University; it will, we venture to hope, not refuse us a license for our lunatic asylums.

Our object in this article is to propose a practical scheme by which lunatic hospitals for the middle and poorer classes of Catholics may be erected, and made, not only self-supporting, but a reasonably lucrative investment, and also form a basis for further operations, and be the foundation of a fund to which the charitable contributions of the rich should be solicited. These contributions should form an endowment for the reception, support, and cure of poor but deserving cases. The hospital, duly licensed, would of course be under the supervision of the Commissioners in Lunacy; but the patients would be the especial charge of members of a religious order,

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and the medical and sanitary departments should be under the superintendence of some thoroughly well-qualified physician.

A very able and practical treatise on the subject has been published by Dr. C. L. Robertson, superintendent of the Sussex Lunatic Asylum, Hayward's Heath. It was originally read before the Brighton and Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society; was afterwards printed in the 'Journal of Mental Science;' and contains many excellent suggestions, of which we gladly avail ourselves. As he truly remarks, what our middle-classes require in this matter is not alms, but organised co-operation; and it is this which Catholics should endeavour to supply, so as to aid and benefit the many hundreds of poor Catholic lunatics. Lord Shaftesbury, the chairman of the Board, states that if the guarantee of the county rates could be given, hospitals of this kind would unquestionably be self-supporting; that by taking a mixed class of patients at graduated rates the payments would not only carry on the operations of the institution, provide for all expenses, salaries, &c., but would in thirty years (discharging the interest meanwhile) liquidate the principal of the building account. But, though granting the guarantee of the county rates is an experiment which would not really cost the outlay of one farthing, we fear it would be useless to try to establish a precedent of the kind in favour of Catholics. To their own zeal, enterprise, and sagacity only they must look; and the provisions of the Limited Liabilities Act seem to offer a safe and available channel for operations. At the most moderate computation it may be supposed that there are between 600 and 700 Catholic lunatics in the country, omitting the naval, military, criminal, and pauper patients. To these must be added many who are to our own knowledge placed in foreign asylums expressly that they may be under the care of those of their own faith. It is reasonable to believe that if similar advantages could be offered here on moderate terms, the relatives of these patients would prefer their being placed in England. Let us, however, to be on the safe side, calculate on receiving something less than two thirds of this number. What we require for this is two hospitals in the northern part of England, each able to accommodate 120 patients; the one for males, the other for females; and two of similar proportions in the south or south-western district. Lancashire for many reasons seems the most suitable county for the first-named; and for the southern one the suitability of a site and the price of land would guide the selection.—*The Month, a Magazine of Literature, Science, and Art.* April, 1865.

### *Dr. Maudsley on the Distinction between Genius and Work.*

Before concluding this chapter it is necessary distinctly to affirm a truth which is an unwelcome one, because it flatters not the self-

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