

my opinion, I have to state, that one was discovered by myself to have been at twelve o'clock last night in the grounds of the asylum with another female attendant in company with two male servants of the asylum; at the same time, I also discovered the sleeping rooms of two female patients unlocked, one of whom was not in bed, and the other walking about her room not undressed, neither of which circumstances was known to the female night attendant who accompanied me. I further found that the approach to the female patients was quite free to the male attendants, and even from the road by scaling the wall, and there was nothing to prevent either of these patients escaping. The master and matron were in bed, but were called up to witness the ingress of the attendants who were out.

I am quite certain that no man of mind, and integrity of purpose, will long hold the situation of medical officer in this institution, if the superintendent can insult him as he thinks proper, and oppose him in the treatment of his patients; and if he has not entire control over the superintendent, matron, and servants of the asylum.

It must appear to any one of proper feeling, that a female sick ward should be one of strict privacy, and not be entered by male persons; and certainly not when the medical officer considers that such entrance may place in jeopardy the lives of his patients, or in the slightest degree retard their recovery.

I have omitted to state, that I have repeatedly objected to the seclusion of this patient, E. P., when the matron has unfortunately desired it, as I have seen the sad effects produced upon her by it, and as she was so easily managed by the nurse to whom she belonged.

I propose in a future letter to give you a statement of the condition of the asylum when I entered, and the changes which have been effected during my residence.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
R. F. FOOTE, M.D.
20th July, 1854. Medical Officer of the Norfolk County Asylum.

*Inauguration of the Statue of the late
DR. CHARLESWORTH.*

The ceremony of the inauguration of the statue of the late lamented Dr. Charlesworth, senior physician of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, took place on the 12th of July last, in presence of a large assembly. When the statue, which stands in an area at the south-east corner of the asylum grounds, visible both to the patients and the public, was exposed to view, all present uncovered; and, after a moment's silence, a burst of applause followed. It consists of a full-length figure of the doctor, in a position in which he frequently appeared, having his right hand advanced a little, grasping a small scroll, and his left resting on his hip; his head is reclining to the left, and the expression of the countenance is exceedingly faithful, expressing that studious habit and decision of character for which he was so remarkable. The statue is 6 feet 6 inches in height, and stands upon a pedestal of Yorkshire granite of the same

elevation. The attitude of the figure is natural and full of character, and from whatever quarter viewed the features are a striking resemblance. The material is most suitable to the peculiarity of our variable climate, the sculptor (T. Milnes, Esq.) having selected Sicilian marble, the statue being worked from a block weighing upwards of six tons. It is of the finest texture, a beautiful colour, and will long retain its freshness. The following inscription is on the pedestal:

CHARLESWORTH, M.D.,

VICE-PRESIDENT AND PHYSICIAN OF THE LINCOLN LUNATIC ASYLUM, DIED FEBRUARY XXI, MDCCCLIII, HAVING LABOURED WITH ZEAL AND SUCCESS FOR THE WELFARE OF THE INMATES FROM THE OPENING OF THE INSTITUTION, NOVEMBER IV, MDCCXXIX.

"His disinterested and persevering benevolence,
"his original and enlightened views, now happily
"influence the treatment of the insane through all
"civilised nations."

The effect altogether of the appearance of the statue on a site, not only exceedingly appropriate, but so well adapted for a work of art, is most happy.

Eloquent and affecting speeches were made by the Rev. the Precentor, the Hon. A. L. Melville, and others. But the interest of the occasion was centred in the following address of Dr. Conolly's.

Dr. Conolly said, I have been most anxious to attend on the present occasion, not only that I might assist in the performance of a public duty, but because I have always acknowledged how large a debt of gratitude I personally owe to Dr. Charlesworth, whose services in the cause of the insane you are now met to commemorate. To those services I must confess myself chiefly indebted for the determination to do what afterward I had opportunities of effecting in the same direction. There had been great benefactors to the insane before Dr. Charlesworth, and he willingly bore testimony to what they had done. Pinel, in the stormy time of the first French revolution, had liberated many lunatics from chains and dungeons. The Society of Friends had established the Retreat at York, where every humane principle was carried into practical effect. Still, the state of most of the asylums of this country remained very defective, and the condition of the insane very miserable. The York County Asylum, and the great Asylum of Bethlem, presented deplorable examples of neglect and cruelty at that time: and in every asylum there were to be found patients who had been chained and fettered for years; ill fed, ill clothed, and ill treated in every possible manner. The records of the Lincoln Asylum shew, that as early as the year 1821, two years after the opening of the institution, Dr. Charlesworth's attention was strongly directed to the improvement of the treatment of insane persons. Step by step may be traced in those records the mitigation of the condition of the patients; the substitution of various means of security, without the necessity of resorting to severe mechanical restraints. Increased liberty was given to them, their superintendence was rendered more efficient, and one by one the terrible inventions for fastening them up became unnecessary and were destroyed. It appears to me that it was Dr. Charlesworth's peculiar

merit, and that it constitutes his peculiar claim to our grateful remembrance, that he persevered in this great work, year after year, regardless of opposition, and undaunted by difficulties; and that he so animated the resident officers of the asylum that at length, with his superintendence, they accomplished that which perhaps he had scarcely been sanguine enough to expect, and found that the total abolition of mechanical restraints was possible; and actually effected it. This had taken place a short time before I visited the Lincoln Asylum, in May, 1839. I was then about to take the direction of the Hanwell Asylum; and I visited several such institutions, to observe what was done in them. I found improvements going on in most of them; but restraints still used in them all: strait-waistcoats, hand-cuffs, leg-locks, various coarse devices of leather and iron, including gags and horrible screws to force open the mouths of unhappy patients who were unwilling or even unable to take food. At Lincoln alone, I found none of these things. I do not mean to say that I found a perfect system; but I found watching and care substituted for mechanical restraints. From Dr. Charlesworth's lips I afterwards heard an exposition of his views and principles; and I certainly left Lincoln with a hope, almost with a determination, of carrying out those principles which were, I knew, the real principles of Pinel and Saquet. Tuke more fully developed. It was my privilege, and has been the happiness of my life, to effect this at Hanwell: and whilst I live I shall always be proud to acknowledge my debt to Lincoln. *From September, 1839, to the present time, no hand or foot has been bound at Hanwell, by night or by day.* In my first printed Report of Hanwell, and on numerous subsequent occasions, my acknowledgements to Lincoln have been fully and gratefully expressed, and I repeat them now before the statue of Dr. Charlesworth, because but for what I saw at Lincoln, I might never have thought of what it was afterwards in my power to effect on a larger scale at Hanwell. The system of non-restraint has yet its opponents. *There is a tendency in too many places to adhere to or return to the indolent system of mechanical coercion.* The French and German and American physicians still maintain that restraints are in some cases necessary. But yet, in England, in Scotland, and in Ireland, mechanical restraints are unknown in almost all the large asylums. *No physician who has tried to do without them has failed; and those who defend such means have never attempted to abolish them.* Within the last few years new county asylums have been opened in many parts of England, and in these there is not to be found one instrument of mechanical restraint. If we take the instance of the asylum at Colney Hatch alone, we find an asylum for the reception of twelve hundred insane persons; and this great asylum, with its farm, its gardens, its workshops, its entertainment room, its chapel, and all the means of amelioration and cure, is opened without any instrument of mechanical restraint being admitted within its walls; so confident are physicians now that they can manage and cure insane people better without such instruments than with them. Such examples are more forcible than any arguments: they are unanswerable. For all these great results, I believe

we are largely indebted to that great physician before whose statue I address you. I rejoice, therefore, to see this beautiful work of art raised to his memory. The sculptor has given a noble embodiment to the feelings you would express; and I trust the contemplation of it will animate many a young medical man who sees it when he visits the asylum, the scene of Dr. Charlesworth's labours, to emulate them elsewhere. We raise statues in memory of the dead, to whom all our warmest tributes are no longer matters of consideration or importance; but such memorials reflect good upon the living, and this, raised this day, will, I trust, for many years to come, give rise to a determination in many connected with asylums, that in those abodes of suffering, severity shall exist no more.

Suicide of Dr. GRAHAMSELY, Medical Superintendent of the Worcester County and City Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

Our readers will learn with deep grief the melancholy end of this promising physician. The following brief summary we condense from the *Worcester Herald*.

Dr. Grahamsley had disagreed with the former attendants of the asylum, and with one of the officials. The single officer above referred to, the Matron of the asylum, made an application to the Visitors for an increase to her salary. This application was referred to Dr. Grahamsley, who refused to recommend it, and informed the Visitors that he had privately advised the matron not to present the application. He had carefully examined the statistics of such institutions, and found that her salary (£60 a year, with board and lodging) was rather above than below the average of the emoluments of such officials. Some time ago the attendants objected to sign the body of rules drawn up by the Visitors for the government of the asylum, and they "struck,"—i. e., they resigned their situations in a body,—no doubt intending thereby to frighten the medical superintendent into compliance with their terms; but he accepted their resignations, and at the expiry of the usual notice they nearly all left, there having been less difficulty in filling up the vacancies than they imagined. The matron did not resign; and the discharged servants, whose conduct in leaving simultaneously had been so evidently based upon anything rather than consideration for the convenience and welfare of the asylum, clubbed together, purchased a silver salver, and presented it to the matron with a suitable inscription.

It may easily be conceived that a sore feeling between Dr. Grahamsley and the matron was created by his conscientious refusal to sanction an addition to her wages. The state of their relations has, in short, been greatly disturbed ever since, and Dr. Grahamsley has frequently made complaints upon the subject to the Committee of Visitors.

An investigation was demanded by Dr. Grahamsley on the subject that the matron had accepted a present of a piece of plate from a body of servants discharged from the asylum under the circumstances above stated, whereby that harmony and confidence which ought to exist between himself and so important a subsidiary officer had been greatly impaired.