

be a piece of detached bone, broken off by muscular action, or by the strain on the ligaments at the time of the accident. He lay several weeks with the leg in splints, but without recovering the use of the knee. The case was one of doubt, many of the surgeons who saw it thinking it a case of loose cartilage. As the boy was a harmless imbecile and much improved, we applied for his admission to the Cambridge Hospital, and he was discharged on trial. The case was operated upon by Dr. Humphry with very great skill, and the foreign body proved to be a piece of detached bone with articular cartilage on one side. The case has now gone on without a bad symptom, and the boy will shortly return to the asylum. Dr. Humphry considers the case unique."

*Second Annual Report of the Committee of Visitors of the Joint Counties Asylum, Carmarthen.* FRANCIS WILTON, Esq., Medical Superintendent.

THIS new asylum for the counties of Carmarthen, Cardigan, and Pembroke, contained, on the last day of the year, 60 males and 39 females, in all 99 patients. The medical superintendent reports that in the early part of August several patients were attacked with choleraic diarrhoea, from which three died.

The asylum has not been opened for the reception of patients very many months; but Mr. Wilton has already introduced recreation of all kinds; and croquet, dropball, football, quoiting, and cricket, have been the out-door games; whilst battledore and shuttlecock, bowls, cards, bagatelle, draughts, &c., have formed the principal in-door amusements. Moreover, the Commissioners report most favorably on the asylum, which has not been opened without great and many difficulties.

*The Report of the Committee of Visitors, Superintendent, and Chaplain, of the Cheshire Lunatic Asylum.* HENRY LEWIS HARPER, M.D., Medical Superintendent.

THIS asylum contained, on the 31st December, 238 males and 243 females, in all 481; and the committee "feel gratified in being able to report that under the superintendency of Dr. Harper," who has recently succeeded Dr. Brushfield, "the affairs of the asylum have been conducted in a satisfactory manner." The asylum is quite full, and the numbers are increasing at the rate of 40 per annum; therefore application was made to the guardians of all the unions in the county to know whether they could receive certain of the lunatics into their unions, under the section in the recent Act of Parliament; but in no case was there the requisite accommodation, consequently the committee are about to enlarge the asylum.

Dr. Harper remarks, in his report, that one patient, a man, on

admission, was found to have several bruises on various parts of his body, and shortly afterwards was discovered to be suffering from fractured ribs, evidently the result of violence previous to his admission into the asylum. Dr. Harper may congratulate himself that this injury was detected immediately *on admission*, and shows how wise was the recent recommendation of the Commissioners in Lunacy, that each patient should be minutely examined by a responsible person, directly on admission into an asylum.

*Fifth Annual Report of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Lunatic Asylum.* T. S. CLOUSTON, Esq., M.D., Medical Superintendent.

THIS asylum contained at the end of last year 278 patients, viz. 159 males and 119 females; and the committee report that the state and condition of the asylum is most satisfactory; that a new west wing having been completed, the whole of the lunatics chargeable to the two counties, for whom it was necessary to provide accommodation, and who were in a fit state to be removed, have been now brought to Garlands, and there is still room to receive forty-six additional patients there. This new block contains accommodation for 100 women, and Dr. Clouston thus writes of it:

"It is," he says, "a narrow building, with plenty of windows and no corridors, and therefore the rooms are light and airy. Every room in it has a through ventilation, both by means of the windows, and ventilators near the roof and floor that can be opened or shut, so that it is thoroughly well ventilated, without, I hope, being too cold. In the evening, when the gas is lighted, ventilation is provided for by openings above each gas-burner in the ceiling, so that the bad air from the gas is carried away, and a constant upward current created. There is no other system of ventilation, and no system of heating but by open fireplaces. The water closets, bath rooms, and lavatories, are all placed in a special offshoot connected with the main building by a narrow neck with windows on both sides of it, so that any smells are cut off from entering the day rooms or sleeping rooms by a cross current of air. All the sleeping accommodation is in the form of associated dormitories, except six single rooms to which noisy patients may be removed.

"The infirmary for twenty patients will be a great advantage to the institution. All the furniture except the chairs has been made here. In that way its strength and soundness is secured. All the linen has been made up by the women, and the mattresses were made on the premises. In this way, doubtless, some saving of cost has been effected, but, what is of more importance, sound, durable articles have been got without any trouble with contractors."

It will be in the memory of most our readers that in former numbers the difficulties experienced at the Cumberland and Westmoreland Asylum respecting the utilisation of the sewerage and the severe epidemic of dysentery from which the inmates suffered were detailed and discussed. The following may be added as an appendix: