

them here. In "The Lancet," March 26th, Dr. J. Batty Tuke, of the Fife Asylum, gives an account of the cases treated by this drug; and in the "British Medical Journal," May 7th, Dr. Clouston relates his experience of it. We would remind our readers that the price of it now is only 1s. 6d. per oz. It has been stated in "The Lancet," April 30th, by Messrs. Howe, of Aldermanbury, that there is an article manufactured and sold as the hydrate which is not a pure *hydrate*, and has been described as an *alcoholate*, giving off a very obnoxious odour. It is most important that we should obtain pure samples of a drug which is put on its trial as hydrate of chloral is at present.

Insanity in Wilts.

Dr. Thurnam, in his Report, tells us that comparing the Commissioners' "Returns of Pauper Lunatics" with the Returns of Population for 1861, it will be found that Wiltshire stands in the unenviable position of having a greater proportion of insane paupers than any other county of England and Wales. Those most nearly approaching it are Gloucester, Oxford, Berks, and Dorset, all agricultural counties; while the ratio of pauper insanity is lowest in Durham, Glamorgan, Stafford, Yorkshire, Cornwall, Derby, Chester, and Lancashire, the most influential in the mining, manufacturing and trading enterprise of the kingdom.

"There can, in any case, be little doubt that the efficient cause of the large relative amount of insanity in Wiltshire and some of the adjoining counties, is to be found in the emigration of many of the more able-bodied and energetic of the labouring population; who from time to time leave their homes for Glamorganshire and other counties of England and Wales; or who cross the seas to the United States and to the Colonies, in search of higher wages than they can earn at home. Wiltshire is remarkable among the counties of England for its decreasing population; there being only two others (Cambridge and Rutland) in which there was any noticeable decrease in 1861 as compared with 1851. The decrease in Wiltshire was at the rate of about twenty in the thousand, or 2 per cent. in the ten years."

But there are other causes also.

"Dr. Bacon, of the Cambridge Asylum, has recently pointed out 'the close relationship of poverty to the rate of insanity;' and states that in those counties in which there are the most

insane, pauperism is also greatest. Here again Wiltshire maintains a bad eminence, having a larger proportion of pauperism than any other county; the ratio being as high as one in every twelve of the population. According to the last report of the Poor Law Board,* the following was the relative amount of pauperism in six agricultural counties, chiefly in the South-West of England, on January 1st, 1868:—

| | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----------|
| Wilts | - | - | - | - | 1 in 12 |
| Dorset | - | - | - | - | 1 in 13 |
| Oxford | - | - | - | - | 1 in 14 |
| Gloucester | - | - | - | - | 1 in 15 |
| Berks | - | - | - | - | 1 in 16 |
| Hereford | - | - | - | - | 1 in 16. |

But in the northern and manufacturing counties the ratio of pauperism was little more than one-half of the above, viz:—

| | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----------|
| Durham | - | - | - | - | 1 in 23 |
| Stafford | - | - | - | - | 1 in 23 |
| Lancaster | - | - | - | - | 1 in 25 |
| York, N.R. | - | - | - | - | 1 in 25 |
| York, W.R. | - | - | - | - | 1 in 26 |
| Chester | - | - | - | - | 1 in 27 |
| Derby | - | - | - | - | 1 in 33. |

“It would result from the whole of these comparisons, that the position of the farm labourer by no means exempts him from that liability to insanity which is sometimes regarded as the especial penalty of a more ambitious career. We may, indeed, almost conclude, with an able and original investigator, that, on a large scale, ‘insanity is an upshot of mental inactivity;’ and that our ‘uneducated cloddish populations’ are its chief breeders.”†

Inebriate Asylums.

THE efforts of our Transatlantic brethren to cure chronic drunkards by the establishment of “Inebriate Asylum,” demand our serious attention, for probably no class of persons brings so much perplexity to the readers of this journal. The “Medical Times and Gazette” (April 9th and 16th, 1870) gives an account of the labours of Dr. Albert Day in two asylums of which he has been superintendent. Dr. Day seems to be a remarkable man. The following particulars

* Twentieth Annual Report, 1868. p. 282-8.

† Dr. B. W. Richardson, *Journal of Mental Science*. Oct. 1869. p. 632.