

ranged higher, being 12·50 per cent.; or 15·929 for males, and 9·09 for females.

In the foregoing remarks we have endeavoured to bring together a collection of facts respecting the prevalence of insanity in Great Britain and Ireland calculated to enlist the attention of every student of social science; for the care of the insane has grown to such dimensions as to become a subject in the internal polity of the kingdom of vast importance, and by the very rapidity of its growth one just now of great perplexity and difficulty. The question forces itself upon the mind, are we proceeding in the right way with respect to our mode of provision for the insane? or, as it has been curtly put, "What are we to with our lunatics?" The feeling has got abroad that the present system of providing accommodation for them has failed. To discover how far this sentiment is based in truth, and if found true, to devise a remedy, such statistical researches as we have briefly and imperfectly sketched, and many others bearing upon the increase and the accumulation of the insane, on the results of treatment in asylums and elsewhere, and on the curability and mortality of insanity, in its different stages, need be perseveringly prosecuted. The length to which this paper has extended forbids our attempting to enter further into such questions for the present.

J. T. ARLIDGE.

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*Group of seven Idiots, brothers and sisters, from a Photograph.*

Contributed by Dr. F. W. A. BROWNE, Commissioner of Lunacy for Scotland.

In passing through an asylum I saw five odd and apparently aged men, seated together around a table and apart from the other patients. They smiled; spoke a few words; gabbled or jargonised. My companion said, "They like to dine together." On complimenting him for his attention to their wishes, he answered, "Oh, they are all brothers." On going to the department for females, I observed two quiet, elderly women, indulged in the same way. "These," said my guide, "are sisters, and sisters of the five brothers. They were the children of poor but industrious and self-supporting parents, who were somewhat eccentric, and believed to be cousins, or related. They are all, in different degrees, imbecile, ineducable, irresponsible, and incapable of guiding or maintaining themselves. They had, besides, a brother who disappeared, and was supposed to have been drowned in a quarry; another imbecile

sister still alive ; and two brothers and one sister, who were healthy."

I. Agnes W—, æt. 71, affectionate, especially to Thomas ; quiet ; inoffensive ; industrious ; speaks indistinctly. First row, first on right.

II. James W—, æt. 69, affectionate ; childish ; confused ; excitable ; does nothing. Behind Agnes.

III. Helen W—, æt. 65, affectionate and attentive to brothers and sisters ; tractable ; willing and useful as a worker in scullery ; neat in dress ; speaks intelligibly. First row, second on left.

IV. David W—, æt. 56, indifferent to brothers and sisters ; passionately fond of washing stockings and coarse articles, and of assisting the female servants ; will not work in garden. First row, second on right.

V. William W—, æt. 53, affectionate to brothers and sisters ; will work in garden, under guidance, but will not wash ; cannot speak intelligibly. Behind David and Helen.

VI. Thomas W—, æt. 51, affectionate to sisters, indifferent to brothers ; quarrels with James ; occasionally violent ; displays much interest in changes in establishment, and worked in garden until he lost the use of right hand. First row, first on left.

VII. Mungo W—, æt. 47, indifferent to brothers and sisters ; sometimes speaks to James ; solitary ; taciturn ; works laboriously in garden. Behind Thomas.