

The central hospital, for 78 patients	£4,560
The wash-house and laundry	824
The stables and workshops	650
Two infirmaries (each £412), for 30 patients	824
Eight houses (each £690), for 240 patients	5,520
Medical superintendent's house	1,000
The garden and court-walls	1,120
Drainage engine and boiler	1,000
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	£16,698

Of course rough estimates of this kind are of little value without specifications. A house may be built to sell or built to last; and a public institution should certainly be built for the latter purpose. Whether the estimates which Dr. Fairless has obtained from an architect are founded upon scantling of timber and thickness of walls which would be needful for a substantial and lasting building, there is nothing in the pamphlet to show. Dr. Fairless remarks that our county asylums have cost from £150 to £250 for each patient; the lowest of these being more than eight times as much as his estimate; and it is scarcely probable all county asylums have been such extravagant jobs as this contrast would indicate. With the principle of this detached block system we most fully concur.

Lunacy Legislation.

A short Bill, entitled the Lunacy Regulation Bill, has been introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord Chancellor. It is to be construed as part of the Lunacy Regulation Act, and its purpose may be gathered from the exposition of the Lord Chancellor, and the remarks of the Earl of Shaftesbury, on its second reading.

“LUNACY REGULATION BILL.

“The Lord Chancellor, in moving the second reading of this bill, said a great deal had been done to improve the position of lunatics by Lord Brougham, Lord Lyndhurst, and Lord St. Leonard's; but a great deal remains to be accomplished. There were many persons of unsound mind possessing a small amount of property, which a commission of lunacy would wholly absorb. But unless there was a commission the property could not be made available for the benefit of the owner. It was proposed by the Bill that if it were made out to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor that these persons, who had incomes under a fixed sum, were lunatic, and if after notice they made no objection, the Lord Chancellor should have the power to dispose of the property as if a commission had issued, and they had been regularly found insane. He admitted that it was a very stringent measure, and one which he should not propose if it were not absolutely necessary. Instances showing its necessity had been furnished by the commissioners. In 1858 a governess, at that time lunatic, became entitled to about £100, and it continued to this day to be held by a

joint-stock bank, who refused to pay it over without the authority of the Lord Chancellor. The Lord Chancellor could give no authority, unless a commission found her insane, and the expenses would wholly absorb the property. In September, 1858, A. B., then in a country asylum, became entitled to a legacy of £200. His own funds were exhausted, and the trustees refused to apply the legacy for his benefit, because they could receive no proper discharge. There was a patient in St. Luke's Hospital possessed of £100 in a savings-bank. His wife could not maintain him; she could scarcely maintain herself. She had repeatedly requested the commissioners to appropriate the money to his use, but they had no power to do so. There were other cases to the same effect, and he hoped that if the Lord Chancellor for the time being were intrusted with the power proposed, it would be always exercised for the benefit of the unhappy lunatics. (Hear, hear.) By the present law a person of whose lunacy there was not the smallest doubt could insist upon a second inquiry. Some years ago a Mrs. Cuming, after an inquiry which lasted sixteen days, was found lunatic on very satisfactory evidence. She insisted on another inquiry. Lord St. Leonard's saw her, and tried to dissuade her; but, whether from her want of understanding, or from her being prompted by others who might have had mercenary motives, she persisted, and another inquiry would have taken place had not Providence interfered and cut her life short. It was proposed by the Bill to give the Lord Chancellor a discretion to grant or refuse a second inquiry, after having seen the lunatic and taken the best means in his power to come to a right conclusion. It was also proposed to give power to grant retiring allowances to the visitors to the extent of two-thirds of their salary. Two of the present visitors had been in office about thirty years. He believed they had done their best to discharge the duties imposed on them; but they were now of a very advanced age, and physically unfitted to continue in office. It had been proposed that the Chancery visitors should be abolished, and that lunatics under the charge of the Lord Chancellor should be visited by the visitors of the General Lunacy Board. He was afraid, however, that this proposition could not be carried out. The General Board had already more to do than they could well get through, and if there were any increase to their numbers it must be at the public expense; whereas the Chancery visitors did not cost the public anything. It had been proposed, too, in order that the General Board might take charge of them, that the Chancery lunatics should be brought together, in the neighbourhood of some central railway station; but this was absolutely impracticable. They were scattered about the country in their own houses, among their friends, or in the charge of clergymen, physicians, and so on, so that it was impossible to bring them all together. It was most essential, too, that there should be direct communication between the lunatics and the Court, and this could only be done by releasing the Chancery visitors. The only other provisions of the Bill were one for declaring that Masters in Lunacy should not be able to sit in the House of Commons, about which a doubt had been raised a short time ago; and another to make the Registrar in Lunacy a permanent officer. The noble and learned lord concluded by moving the second reading of the Bill.

The Earl of Shaftesbury heartily concurred in the principle and details of the Bill, which he believed to be calculated to promote the welfare of this unhappy class of persons. The cases mentioned by the noble and learned lord were merely representative cases. Many others equally striking might have been brought forward. It was not the General Lunacy Commissioners who had proposed that the Chancery lunatics should be transferred to them, for they had already a great deal more work than they could do; but it was the wish and desire of the House of Commons, as the system of Chancery inspection was so imperfect and infrequent, that the visitation should be transferred to the General Board. The Board said they would be perfectly ready, provided

certain facilities were given to them. If the noble and learned lord desired to retain the visitation in the hands of the Court, he hoped that the visitors would be required to devote themselves exclusively to the work. It would not do for them to devote one half of their time to visiting, and another part to the general duties of their profession. Their whole time, strength, and attention must be given to the visitation, otherwise the system would not attain that pitch of efficiency which the noble and learned lord desired.

The Bill was then read a second time.—*Times*, March 19th.

The purport of the clause having reference to the property of lunatics, has been greatly misunderstood by an influential contemporary, who expresses apprehension that it would endanger the liberty of the subject, by abrogating the right of a supposed lunatic to be tried by a jury. The writers we allude to, have obviously, without reading the Bill, jumped to the conclusion that the clause is intended to give to the Lord Chancellor the full powers of commitment of the custody of the person as well as the care of the estate, in the same manner as if an inquisition had been held. Now, the clause in question gives the Lord Chancellor no power whatever over the custody of the person. It merely enables him, when the property of a lunatic does not exceed £500 in value, "to make such order as he may consider expedient for the purpose of rendering the property of such person or the income thereof available for the maintenance or benefit of such person, or of him and his family;" and the clause concludes with the proviso "that the alleged lunatic shall have personal notice of the application for such order;" "and in case the alleged lunatic shall oppose such application, no such order as aforesaid shall be made."

Surely there is nothing in this which can be considered "to invalidate the entire system of juries in all its manifold relations to the protection of personal liberty." The clause, in fact, appears to give to the Lord-Chancellor very little power beyond that given by the 94th sec. of the Lunatic Asylums' Act to any two visiting justices of a county asylum, who, in the case of a lunatic in the asylum having an estate more than sufficient to maintain his family, may make an order, upon which so much of his goods and chattels, rents or profits, property under trustees or in the Bank of England, or any stock interest or annuity belonging to such lunatic, may be taken to defray the charges of his maintenance, &c. There is a curious anomaly as the law at present exists. A lunatic, say, has £500 in the bank; his relatives, by so conducting themselves that two justices of the peace may consider him to be "not under proper care and control," may obtain his admission into a county asylum; and two visitors of the asylum may then order his property to be applied to his maintenance, the receipt of the relieving officer or overseer being a good discharge; and in these proceedings the lunatic himself has no option or power of opposition. But if the relatives of a lunatic who has £500 in the bank treat him with all care and kind-

ness, and do not, either by manœuvre or neglect, obtain his admission into an asylum, there does not appear to be any legal power, except after an inquiry under the writ *de lunatico inquirendo*, by which his money can be made available for his uses,

Communication to the Academy of Sciences of Paris upon the establishment at the Abendberg, and the necessity for European statistics upon Crétinism and Idiocy. By M. LE DOCTEUR GUGGENBUHL. (Report made 2nd half year of 1860, vol. li, No. 24, committing MM. GEOFFREY SAINT HILAIRE, ANDRAL, RAYER,)

You are aware, gentlemen, how much the opinions of men of science have differed hitherto upon the nature of this pest, so widely diffused in all mountainous countries, and even, according to the latest researches, in some plains also. Whilst Ramond de Carbonières has considered cretins to be a distinct race, M. Baillarger has thought it proper to designate them as monsters, and Hufeland has called crétinism a scrofula of the whole of human nature. The observations made during the last twenty years in the establishment of Abendberg have evidently proved that it is a grave affection of the cerebro-spinal system, consisting of various pathological changes, which produce the irregular and tardy development of the body and the obtuseness of the senses and of the intellectual faculties, which characterise this deplorable malady.

1. The autopsy has most frequently demonstrated a cerebral œdema, with anomalies in the lateral ventricles, which are dilated, and either filled or not with serum. In a more advanced period, the softening of the contiguous circumvolutions manifests itself. The microscopic investigation of many cases has not discovered any visible pathological traces, neither in the cortical substance, nor in the nervous substance, nor in the elementary fibres.

2. After this comes the imperfect or retarded development of portions of the cerebral, especially of the anterior and posterior lobes; sometimes general atrophy of the brain; more rarely hypertrophy of this organ is the cause of the cerebral stupor.

3. Induration of the brain, or of some of its parts, in some exceptional cases.

4. Hypertrophy of the bones of the cranium, which comprises the cerebral substance, characterises the rachetic form of cretinism in a more advanced stage.

5. The premature closing of the sutures by inflammation frequently produces a deformity of the cranium among cretins and idiots; but having frequently found the same thing among persons