

remembered, when enlightening the darkness of people with regard to the prevention of insanity, the painful feelings of that same Sancho Panza on the occasion when, having been made Governor of Baratania, he found the successive courses of his elaborate banquet appear and disappear with great display without his being allowed to eat anything, and at the end of it was left as hungry as at the beginning, with the additional bitterness of tantalising disappointment.

Curability of Insanity.

In the same Report Dr. Pliny Earle, discussing the different percentages of recoveries in different asylums, and pointing out how much the temperament of the observer affects his view of what is a recovery—how much, in fact, should be allowed for the personal equation—gives a striking illustration of the uncertainty of the statistics of insanity, from the medical history of the Worcester Hospital. Two Superintendents held office for a period of three years each, and the statistics of admissions and recoveries for each of these periods are as follows:—

OFFICIAL YEAR.	Admissions.	Recoveries.	Per cent. of Recoveries.
<i>First Period.</i>			
1868-69 . . .	337	149	44·21
1869-70 . . .	384	158	41·11
1870-71 . . .	470	209	44·46
Total . . .	1,191	516	43·32
<i>Second Period.</i>			
1872-73 . . .	407	98	24·08
1873-74 . . .	400	71	17·75
1874-75 . . .	362	90	24·86
Total . . .	1,169	259	22·16

Thus, although the number of admissions (1,169) in the second period was but twenty-two less than (1,191) in the first, the number of recoveries (259) was but *one more than half as great*. The proportion of recoveries of the first period is to the proportion of the recoveries of the second, as 195 to 100, or as 100 to 51·15. There is, in my opinion, but one explanation of this most surprising difference; and that is, the difference in the physical and

mental constitution of the two men by whom these statistics were reported. Were it possible to apply to the two sets of cases a standard of sanity, and an accurate measure of mentality, it would doubtless be found that there were as many recoveries in the second period as there were in the first.

An Expensive Asylum.

We take the following from the same report in regard to the State Hospital for the Insane, Danvers, Massachusetts:—

Let it be granted, for the present purpose, that the building may give suitable domicile to five hundred patients. From the data given, the fact is derived that the cost of the hospital will be at the rate of *three thousand six hundred dollars per patient.*

If a State can afford to expend that sum of money in a dwelling for each of a large class of its wards, we may celebrate the advent of a new era in political economy, or be forced to acknowledge that the hitherto recognized principles of that science are all at fault. No monarchical State, it is safe to assert, has ever attempted such an enterprise. If a republic, more hazardous, ventures to do it, then we may readily believe that it was not without good reason that Montesquieu declared that "republics fall by luxurious habits." If provision so costly of mere shelter and lodging, preparatory to the further provision of clothing and sustenance, for dependent persons, many of whom are fully capable of earning their support, be *not* a remarkable evidence of luxurious habits, it would be difficult, how closely soever the various spheres of society might be scrutinized, to discover any such evidence.

Perhaps something may be excused to the inherent fondness for ostentatious display manifested by the race in all ages, conditions, and degrees of enlightenment. Having no sovereign, under whatever title, upon whom to lavish the means for external grandeur, we build palaces for our insane as a substitute; and even many a *royal* palace, and that, too, in the European nations, is neither so large nor so pretentious, architecturally, as the hospital at Danvers. Three thousand six hundred dollars *per patient*, for a place of domicile! Scattered all over Massachusetts there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of farms, averaging one hundred acres of land each, with a good country dwelling-house of two stories in height and from three to five rooms upon the ground floor, a suitable barn and (often) other out-buildings, and wood sufficient for the perpetual maintenance of two fires; and any one of these farms may be purchased for less money than that. The marketable value of more than five hundred such farms will be spent in the construction of that hospital. If the Commonwealth should buy that number of them, and give them, in