

son if in the asylum, which allowance, and no greater sum, shall be charged for him, and be payable as if he were actually in the asylum." There is nothing about paying the allowance every week here, and the only responsibility incurred by paying once a month would seem to be, that if the patient should spend the month's allowance during the first week, and become destitute, or if he should die, and his friends not refund the allowance, the union might decline to pay, and the asylum have to bear the loss. Of course the words quoted above, "shall be charged for him, and be payable as if he were actually in the asylum," mean that the sum shall be charged to the parish or union, and be payable by the parish or union to the treasurer of the asylum; and we can see no reason why the powers given by the act to enforce payment when it is refused, would not apply here as much as to the maintenance of the patient in the asylum, and therefore we cannot agree with Dr. Oliver in his opinion that the Lunacy Act gives no power to the visitors to enforce payment of this allowance.

This matter is important under other aspects than the one under which it is viewed by Dr. Oliver. In the Devon Asylum, for instance, a certain number of patients are always out on trial, living with cottagers in the neighbourhood, with a view of affording one means of relief to the over-crowded asylum. Some of these patients have been out on trial for several years, the asylum paying all charges, and in turn charging the parishes for their care and maintenance as if they were in the asylum. Now and then a parish has objected to the arrangement, and has requested that the patient may be sent home, and sometimes the visitors have acceded to the request, and sometimes have refused, being guided by the opinion they formed as to the probability of the patient being properly taken care of when at home. The payments for these patients are made monthly.

*Report of the Lancashire Asylum at Rainhill.*

The power of making the allowance to patients on trial appears also to have been freely used by the visitors of this asylum. Dr. Rogers says—"The clause in the Act of Parliament by which patients may be discharged on trial, and an allowance made to them during their period of probation, has been largely applied during the past year; and many have been thus discharged much earlier than it would have been thought prudent to do unconditionally. The period has, in one or two instances, been extended to a second month; and in two cases (both women), reports of their condition and conduct when at large not being satisfactory, their final discharge was withheld, and they still remain under treatment in the asylum."

It would appear, therefore, that in some asylums this allowance to patients on trial is freely granted, while in others benevolent funds have been established to effect the same end; thus in the next report which we take up, namely, that of—