

When I thought she was shamming there were signs of intelligence. I could make an impression upon her then, and could get monosyllables when I pressed her, but I could not make any impression on my last visit. I went into her room and found her sitting near to the fire place. I walked up to her and asked her how she was. She looked up, half laughed, and said, "How do you do?" She afterwards made no answer to my conversation.

By Lord Penzance—Did not consider the words in the letter of Sir Charles (read by his Lordship) to be a true statement of the case.

Several passages were read by his Lordship, but

Witness said he never noticed Lady Mordaunt in such a state as described, and he did not consider the statements true.

Dr. Jones said—I saw Lady Mordaunt. I have had experience in puerperal mania. When first I saw Lady Mordaunt, on the 10th of March, she was not suffering from that disease. Saw her on the 11th, 12th, and 26th, and she was not then suffering from puerperal mania. Went into the sick room on the 10th, and did not find her suffering from fever. When I questioned her she made no reply. I found that she had not taken food lately. There was neither puerperal mania nor puerperal fever. On the second occasion I thought that there was a hysterical condition dependent upon mental motion, which would account for her silence. There was a tacit and reticent condition, which could be accounted for if there was anything on her mind, and from what I afterwards heard I thought there was something on her mind. There were no signs of insanity. She was capable of understanding what was said to her, and intelligent in her replies. I saw her on various other occasions, and when I conversed with her sometimes she would not answer. On April 23rd I found her perfectly sane. She asked me my address, and I said, "Leamington." Lady Mordaunt asked me to write it down. She spoke of Sir Charles, and burst into tears. Witness related conversations which had occurred during the other visits to Lady Mordaunt. The impression conveyed to his mind was that she was generally unquestionably sane. All the peculiarities spoken of were produced by a weight upon her mind under a pressure of circumstances.

By Dr. Deane—Had never seen a deranged person exhibit symptoms such as those shown by her ladyship. Her state was quite inconsistent with any mania he ever saw. She did all sorts of strange things. Her ladyship, when he conversed, gave fractional replies to his questions. Her state on the 10th of July, at Worthing, was inconsistent with any form of mania considering the antecedent circumstances. She was suffering from cataleptic hysteria in March. When I first attended her I did not find her nervous system prostrated. On the last time I visited her she threw herself on the rug before me, and I could not get her to speak. I asked her to show me the drawing-room, and asked her to play, but she laid upon a sofa, and would not speak a word. Thought her condition was brought about by the unfortunate circumstances that had occurred.

Dr. Tyler Smith, physician, said—Puerperal mania is a disease perfectly well known. Believed there was no puerperal mania following Lady Mordaunt's confinement. Witness described the symptoms of and the results arising from this disease, and said puerperal mania was a madness caused by and following confinement. It is a very intractable malady, lasting a year or two. From the description I have heard from Mr. Orford and Mr. Jones, I should have no question as to their being right as to the absence of insanity at the time they speak of. I saw Lady Mordaunt in December, and formed the opinion that there was nothing in her state which could not be feigned. I considered her in a very bad state of health.

Cross-examined by Dr. Deane—It was a phase of puerperal mania either to be taciturn or excited. It is a common symptom of the patient to make self-accusations.

2. *The Case of Manslaughter at the Lancaster Asylum.*

The facts of the case are as follows:—William Wilson, the deceased, who was about 50 years of age, was admitted into the Lancaster Asylum on Wednesday, the 15th of December, and was found to labour under general paralysis. He was restless and sleepless the first

night he was in the asylum, and was in consequence removed to the refractory ward on Thursday. He was examined by Dr. Russel on his admission, and was bathed on the Friday, and no broken ribs or any marks of violence were then apparent. On the Friday afternoon the ward was left for about twenty minutes in charge of two attendants, named Wood and Hodgson, the other two attendants being absent. It was alleged by the patients in the ward that during this time Wilson was knocked down heavily, kicked, and struck first by the attendant Hodgson, and then by Wood. The night attendant said he noticed difficulty of breathing in the patient on Sunday night. Nothing else seems to have been seen amiss with Wilson, either by the charge attendant of the ward or by the medical officers, till Monday evening, when the former in putting him to bed observed extensive bruises over his stomach and chest. Dr. Russel found that his ribs were broken, and he died of pleurisy on Sunday, the 26th December.

A post-mortem examination was made by Dr. Russel, who found two large patches of ecchymosis, the one across the upper part of the abdomen in front and at the sides of the body, measuring two feet; the other across the chest. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th ribs of both sides were broken outwards, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of the left side being broken in two places. The pleura was uninjured by the broken ends of the bones.

The most searching investigation seems to have been made by Mr. Broadhurst and by the Committee of Visitors. The two accused attendants being the only sane persons in the ward at the time the patient was stated to have been ill-treated, and they denying all knowledge of how he received the injuries, the only direct evidence that could be obtained was that of two patients named Dutton and Bell, who both gave substantially the same account of the affair. Bell got worse mentally, so that he could not appear at the trial. The inquiries before the coroner and justices lasted four days.

The attendant Wood was indicted for murder, and Hodgson for manslaughter, at the Lancaster Spring Assizes, but the grand jury ignored the bill against Wood for murder. He and Hodgson were therefore tried for manslaughter on the 4th of March, and in order to guard against their escape from justice if guilty, a bill of indictment had been presented against each of them for an aggravated assault and a misdemeanour, by the asylum authorities, for which they would have been tried had they been acquitted for manslaughter. The great interest of the trial depended on the fact that it was a lunatic patient in an asylum who was to be the chief witness against the prisoners. Mr. Torr, the counsel for the prisoners, asked the judge, Mr Justice Willes, if such a person was competent to give evidence, who replied that if such witnesses could not be examined, the attendants could then treat lunatics with impunity. He would hear the witness and the medical men, and would then form an opinion as to the value of his evidence. Mr. Broadhurst was examined as to Dutton's state of mind. He said that the patient had been for the past two or three

months convalescent (It was then two months and a half since the accident occurred). The patient had formerly laboured under melancholia, with suicidal tendencies, delusions, and hallucinations of hearing; but all these had then left him. "I consider that the patient is capable of observing correctly what he saw, and giving a true account of it, and that he was capable in the month of December. I believe that he understands the nature of an oath, and that he will speak the truth."

Dutton was then examined. He seems to have given coherent and correct answers to the questions put to him as to how the injuries found on Wilson were inflicted. "I remember William Wilson, and have seen him in No. 1 Ward in the Asylum. I cannot say how long it is since I saw him. I saw Hodgson commence boxing and larking with Wilson, and afterwards he struck him heavily, and knocked him down, and kicked him. He kicked him several times in several parts of his body. When Hodgson had finished with him, I persuaded Wilson to come and sit beside me, and as we were going away I heard the prisoner Wood say, 'Wait till my nose has done bleeding, and you'll see what I will do for you.' I did not see Wilson strike Wood on the nose, as my head was turned the other way. I tried to persuade the patient to be quiet, and told him if he interfered with the attendants he would get ill-used. Wood then proceeded to wrap some towels up, and he afterwards went up to Wilson, got hold of him, and struck him in different parts of his body. Wood then pulled him down on the boards, held him by the collar, and kicked him in the stomach. The patient was then on his knees. Wood then jerked his knee into Wilson's side, while he held him by the collar. He jerked his right knee into the patient's left side. He was holding the patient very tight by the collar. I wish to speak the truth, and if there are any doubts they (the prisoners) have them. I don't wish to say anything that I don't know."

On cross-examination he said he was not yet quite well; that he had brought on his insanity by taking too much drink; that he used to hear voices telling him not to eat, and that the voices sometimes whispered to him now, but that he could not say when he heard the last whisper. He admitted having cried and laughed on the previous day. "I cried when I saw Hodgson, and I could not help crying. I did not wish to do him any harm. I did not hear a whisper that made me laugh. I may laugh when I think of something in my past life which is funny. I cannot recollect what I laughed about. I am not forced to say things that I know of. I recite passages of Scripture to myself, and people might think I was mad. Wilson did not say anything, but when he got up he wanted to fight. I had seen him abused before. I have seen patients ill-used often before. They have ill-used me, but I forgive them, for it is past and gone. I told the superintendent a couple of days ago about it. I did not tell him at the time. I never saw Wilson on his back while they were ill-using him."

The prosecution asked the jury to convict on the above evidence. The defence was that Dutton was insane; that voices told him to say

such things; that it was incredible that two strong attendants would use such fearful violence to a poor semi-paralysed man, who was not really violent; that the injuries could not have been caused as Dutton said they were caused; that the deceased could not have gone about for two days with such injuries without showing some symptoms; and that he got them by falling against the crib bedstead in his room.

The Judge, in his summing up, told the jury that the whole case depended upon Dutton being believed, that he clearly laboured under delusions, but that his memory seemed to be good. "Judging as you must do from the probabilities of the case, and bearing in mind those probabilities, conjointly with Dutton's evidence—if you believe it—and you are satisfied that the man came to his death by misconduct on the part of either of them, then you will find them or him guilty of the manslaughter with which they are charged."

The jury found them both guilty. Evidence was then called as to the character of the two prisoners, and the Revd. George Quirk, vicar of Over Kellet, said "I have known and seen a great deal of the prisoner Hodgson. If I were asked to point out one young man of my acquaintance more than another who was quiet and respectable I should select the prisoner Hodgson." Evidence of the same kind was produced in regard to Wood.

The judge said he concurred in the verdict of the jury, and though he believed they had no intention of doing the deceased grievous bodily harm, he sentenced them to penal servitude for seven years.

To any one looking at this case from the point of view of one who knows practically something of insanity there are certain considerations which cannot fail to suggest themselves.

1. That the verdict was a just one.
2. That it was arrived at on evidence which might under other circumstances have been quite fallacious.
3. That the case is one showing the immense difficulties of carrying out the humane and rational treatment of the insane. Here we have a man whose brain was, from organic disease, in such a state that he was absolutely irrational, though not very violent, utterly regardless of consequences, though appearing to an ignorant person to be acting wilfully, quite incapable of feeling pain or of making a complaint in regard to ill usage, under the charge of two men—good enough men in their way, as good as can be got for the money—who first begin to lark with him, and when he (on account of his brain disease), strikes as if he were fighting, lose their tempers, and kick him as they would have done their cart horses.
4. That the evidence of a man who has hallucinations of hearing would require the strongest corroboration to be believed. How many such patients are there in asylums who imagine or concoct plausible stories and would stick to them in the severest cross-examination, and would, if they were believed, convict all the asylum officers, chaplains, and committees, of the most frightful cruelty.
5. That it is a great pity in such a case that the French system of

examining each prisoner in the most searching way by himself could not have been applied. This is practically how a superintendent comes at the truth in such cases, and feels satisfied in his mind whether patients' complaints are well or ill-founded.

6. That the theory of Mr. Charles Reade and the *Lancet* about attendants systematically "travelling up and down the prostrate bodies of lunatics," and in that way breaking their ribs, seems not to meet all the cases, as here we have the effect produced in quite a different way, not as part of a system, but suddenly in ill-temper, and in a way which left bruises, and was easily discovered.

7. That having such instruments with which to carry out the treatment of lunatics, it might be well to take this clearly into account in Asylums, and by careful observation of the cases likely to come into collision with the attendants, by a judicious use of seclusion and of sedative medicines, to endeavour to avoid such calamities. There is no use in trying to imagine that because attendants *ought* to be intelligent, patient, good-tempered, deeply interested in the comfort, cleanliness, and care of their patients, they will necessarily be so.

8. That the state of the bones in brain diseases, and especially in general paralysis, should be investigated. It will not do to take Mr. Broadhurst's *ipse dixit*, unsupported by any proof whatever, that they are never changed in structure. If this point had been looked into in Wilson's case it would have been worth a bushel of opinions.

9. That there is some danger of having no lack of evidence as to how injuries occur to patients in Asylums, if each witness, sane or insane, is to have £100 for a story sworn to with sufficient vigour to convict *somebody* of the offence. This was the reward offered by Mr. Charles Reade, and which, if the newspapers are correct, has been claimed for or by the patient Dutton. We are aware that genius utterly refuses to be judged by the standard of morals, but even a great name can scarcely afford to be often coupled with such quixotic and immoral proposals as that of offering a large reward for evidence against persons who are awaiting trial, and for convicting them. Such injuries in any Asylum cause grief and shame enough in all conscience to every Asylum medical officer. Few but themselves know the state of painful, feverish, sleepless worry and vigilance which the bare thought of any such misconduct on the part of their attendants produces. The heart-sinking feeling with which every paragraph in the newspapers relating to lunatics is first looked at is only relieved by the keen sense of gross injustice done them when they see flippant writers, grossly and palpably ignorant of the whole matter, pandering to the tastes of the rabble, throwing a slur on the many Asylums for the insane, where no such accidents have ever occurred, by mixing them up with the few where they have happened, falsely accusing them of guilty knowledge of and connivance with the occasional practices of the most worthless of their attendants, aspersing the character of all attendants because a few of them are cruel, and causlessly raising the keenest tortures of suspicion in the breasts of thousands of relatives of the insane.