

*Female Medical Students.*

It is somewhat remarkable, that in an age characterised by peculiar indications of female ambition, and even distinguished by most useful and honorable female exertions, the condition of the insane portion of the community seems yet to have attracted little attention on the part of the gentler sex. Exertions of infinite value have been made to reform the faults of schools, and prisons, and even of camps; and there are women whose names, associated with difficult labours in these departments, can never be pronounced without reverential respect: but female visitors to asylums have been few, and they have, perhaps, been rendered difficult by peculiar obstructions. Even among matrons of asylums, there have been only very few who seem to have been the cordial auxiliaries of superintendents in introducing the improved modern treatment of the insane. The zealous, laborious, and courageous investigations of Miss Dix, in America, in relation to peculiar forms of infirm mind, and to asylums, have found no imitators in the old world, or in the new, or in any part of the globe. Mental disorder attracts the curiosity of women, but would appear, generally, to produce no deeper effect. Very recently, a visit has been made to Europe by a young American lady, with the avowed intention of making herself personally acquainted with our hospitals, and more especially with our lunatic asylums. She is the daughter of the Hon. Judge Sewall, of Boston, U.S., whose attention has been much directed to the condition of the insane and the laws affecting them; and with his consent, his daughter undertook what may almost be termed her *heroic* visit. Although a card designating her as Lucy E. Sewall, M.D., was not calculated to act as a favorable letter of introduction in a country in which any departure from the conventional distinctions of the sexes is creative of something like a shudder, Miss Sewall's youth, her perfectly unassuming and feminine appearance and manners, seconded by the high testimonials with which she was fortified, caused her to be very politely and kindly received by those who had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with her in the asylums and hospitals of London, and, we need scarcely add, to be welcomed with chivalrous courtesy in those of Paris. Professors treated her with distinguished politeness, and the students with respectful wonder. As we understand that Miss Sewall has the laudable ambition to institute a sort of model asylum in her own country, it is a matter of regret to those who felt a sincere interest in her views that, either in consequence of an unexpected abbreviation of her visit to Europe, or as a result of the variety of professional objects attracting her attention in general hospitals, she returned to Boston without opportunities of making herself acquainted with the general management of our Provincial County Asylums, and departed with no more salutary impressions of the English treatment of insanity than could be received from a few visits to those in or near the metropolis, where much that would be desirable is rendered impossible, either by faulty position, bad government, or monstrous extent.—J. C.

*The Naval Lunatic Hospital, Great Yarmouth.*

There are now a hundred and sixty inmates of the Great Yarmouth Naval Lunatic Asylum, eighty having recently arrived from Haslar, and thirty-six having been transferred from the Sussex Lunatic Asylum, Hayward's Heath. The asylum was officially inspected in the course of last week by Sir J. Liddell, and was found to be in a satisfactory condition.—*British Medical Journal*, 19th September, 1863.