

intention and purpose of conferring benefit and happiness upon the patient, would come within the scope of the physician's power, so long as he exercised it with sufficient caution and judgment to protect the interests of the public and of the patient; and we can conceive few things better adapted to break any prejudices of the poorer classes against asylums as places of detention, and thoroughly to reconcile inmates of asylums with their detention than this new plan of Dr. Williams. How often may not such a visit to friends be made the useful preliminary to the legal discharge, leading the mind of the patient, without needless shock, to view the struggles and trials of renewed liberty. How often may not the galling doubts of the affection of relatives be removed by such a visit; and above all, in how many cases will not such visits tend to remove from the mind of a patient the feeling that he is shut up against his will and against his interest, and lead him to recognise the benevolent wisdom which secludes him from the world? We have ourselves begun to follow Dr. Williams' excellent example, and we hope and expect to see much good result from it.

*The West Riding of York Asylum.*

The report contains a large and well-drawn bird's-eye view map of the now completed buildings. This map is the work of a patient, and is an example of what patients can perform under kind and judicious encouragement. The asylum, which is now one of the largest in the kingdom, is somewhat too near to the busy and bustling town of Wakefield, and has a much too limited quantity of land, namely, 64 acres for 1150 patients; otherwise the asylum arrangements would now appear to be excellent and complete. A handsome chapel has been opened during the year, capable of containing 611 persons, and we are pleased to observe that the character of the services is varied to suit different tastes. "The services are about an hour and a quarter in length. They are made as attractive and as little monotonous as possible, by the introduction of music. On the Sunday afternoons there is an excellent choir of about twenty-four voices from among the officers and servants, kindly assisted by several leading members of the choirs of churches in the town. Full choral service, with an anthem, is regularly performed, and the psalms are chanted, usually to simple single chants. In the morning the service is, musically, much plainer, the psalms and versicles being read, and the chants and psalm-tunes being chiefly taken in unison. One of the objects contemplated by the difference between the musical character of the morning and afternoon services, is to endeavour to meet the tastes of those who think chanting the psalms scarcely devotional, and of the still larger population who are soothed and devoutly impressed by good church music."