

the fact that in the general population the latter sex far out-numbers the former, demonstrate that the actual liability of the males to mental impairment is far greater than that of the females.

The one great cause of the accumulation of female patients in asylums is the much greater mortality among men. Thus it appears from the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy that notwithstanding that 68 more men than women were admitted into asylums in the year 1870, and that 226 more women than men were discharged during the year, the mortality of the men was so much greater that at the end of the year there remained of the admissions 130 more females than males. The number of deaths among men exceeded that among women by 424.

---

*Feigned Insanity.*

In the Annual Report of the City of London Asylum, Dr. Jepson mentions a case which proves, at any rate, that there are worse places in the world than county asylums, in the opinion of one who had some experience of life in them:—

One male patient was discharged as not insane; he was admitted for the first time in February, 1871, with, apparently, delusions and considerable maniacal excitement, which, however, soon disappeared, and after a residence of four months he was discharged recovered. Shortly after he left, the Annual Report of the Asylum for the County of Kent was received, in which Dr. Kirkman so graphically described a man lately under his care who had proved to be an impostor, that there could be little doubt that the patient just discharged was one and the same individual. He was, three months afterwards, again admitted, having been found wandering and taken by the police to the union. Dr. Kirkman was at once communicated with, and he visited the patient here, identifying him as the patient mentioned in his report. Upon these facts being laid before the Committee of Visitors, together with a certificate that the patient was not insane, they immediately ordered his discharge, and the circumstances were specially reported to the Commissioners in Lunacy, who suggested that steps should be taken to endeavour to punish the impostor; their letter, however, was not received until after he had left the Asylum. The man was admitted here under the name of George Hatton; at Barming Heath he was known as George Griffiths, alias George Hattum; and in the year 1861 he was in the Hanwell Asylum with a different name—Watkins—or some similar one, to your Medical Superintendent's personal

knowledge, who has thought it desirable to relate this matter in detail that other officers of asylums may be on their guard.

Dr. Jepson should have told us the character of the man's feigned insanity, and the particular delusions which he thought fit to assume. It seems to us that it is becoming necessary to study carefully the features of simulated insanity. Since it has been made known, by the issue of Lady Mor-daunt's case, that a husband whose wife has committed adultery cannot proceed against her for a divorce so long as she is insane, we have seen two cases in which wives, who had gone astray from the paths of virtue, went mad as soon as they were found out. And the madness was of a very suspicious kind. One lady, whose wits were acute enough in most respects, suddenly found out that she was the wife of Prince Arthur, and was particularly anxious to telegraph to him; the other lady broke out all at once into very advanced insanity, in which she declared herself to be the Queen, and looked under her bed to discover the Prince of Wales, who, she said, was concealed there. Her habits were such as are usually met with in prisoners feigning insanity—dirty in the extreme.

It is a curious fact, however, in regard to cases of this kind, that while one cannot help suspecting simulation, one cannot help feeling at the same time that the very feigning of insanity is itself a sort of insanity. Many women who commit adultery have an inherited tendency to insanity; some have a marked insane temperament; and the fall into sin is often the result and evidence of the latent vice of mental organization. This is a fact which every one who is tempted to fall in love with another man's wife would do well to remember; let him beware; the more flattering the demonstration on her part, the greater the danger lying behind. A woman who, for the gratification of a lust, risks or abandons all that most persons hold dear, has a strong tendency in her to be either mad or bad—badly mad or madly bad.

---

*Monomania and Depression from Lead Poisoning.*

In the Annual Report of the Waterford Asylum for 1871, the Medical Superintendent, Dr. MacCabe, relates the follow-  
VOL. XVIII. 16