

*Report of the Crichton Royal Institution for Lunatics.*

Dr. Gilchrist, referring to some cases in which recovery took place in contradiction to the probabilities of prognosis, and in which he attributes the happy result to the skill and assiduity of his medical assistant, in adapting the moral treatment to the minds of the particular case, observes :

“These and other examples tend to confirm our strong faith in what may be denominated the individualization of moral treatment, that is, its special adaptation to individual cases, its application being aided by the exercise of authority and influence. It has been, and continues to be our firm belief, that this principle lies at the bottom of all improvement and success in the moral treatment of insanity. It is a principle, however, entirely ignored in the increased and increasing tendency to amplify our already overgrown establishments, where the power of wielding that authority, and exercising that influence, is reduced to a minimum.”

Eighteen patients were admitted into the institution in whom the cause of the insanity was referred to the revival excitements, but of these only one case was admitted into the private asylum and seventeen into the pauper department; a fact indicating how greatly the revival movement preponderates in the lower classes of society. Of these eighteen cases seven were maniacal, ten were melancholic, and one had acute dementia. In nine of them suicidal impulse was present. A large proportion of them refused food, and in three artificial alimentation had to be resorted to for a long time. The tendency to excitement of the sexual feelings was very marked in a large proportion of the cases. It was remarkable that only two of the cases were received from the town of Dumfries, the very focus of the revival excitement, a fact which Dr. Gilchrist thinks “mainly due to the care and prudence exercised by the leaders of the movement.” After all we have heard, it is reassuring to find that care and prudence can be exercised by leaders of the revival movement. The results of treatment of these eighteen revival cases were as follows :—seven were cured, three were removed by friends (of whom two were improved), of the remainder one is convalescent, one has passed into chronic dementia, one into persisting mania, and five continue in a state of melancholia, but in three of these five the result is still uncertain.