

effect, so has been the improvement in the general condition, not of the labouring classes only, but of the whole community as influenced by them. The improvement has been so great as to be well nigh incredible by a generation in which the horrors of the past are either unknown or forgotten. It is good sometimes to call these horrors to remembrance; and it is justifiable to conclude that wisdom thus tested by experience may be accepted as a safe and certain guide for the social legislation of the future.—*The Times*, October 21.

The Westminster Review on Obscure Diseases of the Brain.

The fourth edition of Dr. Winslow's *Obscure Diseases of the Brain and Mind* proves the interest which the public feel in sensational anecdotes of madness, and in a medley of quotations from all sorts of authors concerning it. The reader is not unlikely to finish the perusal of the book with a conviction that any confusion which its incoherent character may naturally have produced, is an indication of some obscure disease of the brain or mind requiring instant medical advice. In that case, the book may possibly have answered its purpose.—*The Westminster Review*, October, 1868.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Education, Position, and Pay of Assistant Medical Officers of County Asylums.

We have received the following letter from Dr. Crichton Browne with reference to the *Occasional Note* on the "Education, Position, and Pay of Assistant Medical Officers of County Asylums," published in the October number of the *Journal of Mental Science* :—

West Riding Asylum, Wakefield,
22nd September, 1868.

MY DEAR DR. ROBERTSON,—

The medical staff of this Asylum consists of a Medical Director, two Assistant Medical Officers—one acting in the male and one in the female department—and two Clinical Clerks—one acting under the direction of each of the Medical Assistants. The salary of the Senior Medical Assistant for the time being is £125, with the usual allowances, and that of the Junior, £100, while the Clinical Clerks receive no salary, but only furnished apartments, board, &c., and instruction in mental and nervous diseases, in return for their services. After eighteen months' experience of them, I am strongly impressed with the value of these Clinical Clerks, and should not now like to be without them. They are of great service, not merely in keeping the case books, but in widening and extending that general and unremitting supervision which I believe to be so important in a large establishment like this, and in helping on the medical work in various ways. It is almost impossible for me to describe to