

the reports on the individual asylums, but all of them are painstaking and instructive, and many of them racy and entertaining. Regarding the Wellington asylum, some parts of which he thinks were expressly constructed conformably to the "wild beast theory of insanity," he speaks of a patient being placed "in a cell remote from supervision, badly lighted by a small, barred window near the roof, having a sloping floor with a drain to carry off urine, and furnished with a fixed privy and a straw bag, and having a slit in the wall through which food can be pushed." This is merely a fair specimen from dozens of such entries. There are plans of many of the colonial asylums at the end of the Report. We wish Dr. Skae much success in the great and humane work that lies before him.

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*Disease of the Mind. Notes on the Early Management, European and American Progress, Modern Methods, &c., in the Treatment of Insanity, with especial reference to the Needs of Massachusetts and the United States.* By CHARLES F. FOLSOM, M.D., Secretary to the Massachusetts Board of Health, 1877.

This is a reprint of a part of the Eighth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts. The fact that any Board of Health should issue such a report, gives us a high opinion of its breadth of view and largeness of conception of its functions. It is difficult to say which part of the book is best, the historical or the descriptive portions. Dr. Folsom, who is clearly a man of advanced views, gives a short history of the early and recent treatment of the insane in this and other countries—enters into the question of restraint or non-restraint, treats of the responsibility for crime among the insane, of the question of supervision by the State, and of medical education in regard to mental diseases and the letters and opinions of many men of eminence in regard to those matters are quoted. The book is illustrated with plans and plates. We greatly regret that we cannot devote more space to some of the questions so ably treated of by the author.