

is the only resident medical officer of the old asylum at Forstan, yet, according to these rules, he is prohibited from visiting or entering the females' wards after a certain hour in the evening, except in company of the matron. This is a most unjust and wrong rule, and that it should ever have been allowed to enter the book reflects, we consider, very injuriously on the medical superintendent. How can he expect to get good and efficient assistants with such a rule existing? The only wonder is that medical men can be found willing to submit to such authority. We hold that, in suffering such a rule to pass, Mr. Symes has cast a most unjust and unnecessary slur on the profession. He is obliged to own in his report that the present senior assistant throws much assiduity into his duties, and trusts each year will find him more able and willing in the service of the county; yet he does not consider him sufficiently trustworthy to be allowed to enter the females' wards after a certain hour unless under the wing of the matron.

Eighth Report of the Durham County Asylum. ROBERT SMITH,
Esq., M.D., Medical Superintendent.

215 males, 191 females, total 406, is the population of this asylum. It is overcrowded, and plans for the permanent enlargement for 300 more patients are under the consideration of the Commissioners in Lunacy. In the mean time a temporary building, principally of wood, at a cost of £468 11s. 5½d., to accommodate seventy patients, is in the course of erection.

Writing on the deaths in his report, Dr. Smith relates the following interesting case:

“One peculiar case, which presented all the symptoms of miliary fever, deserves notice. A woman, under middle age, who had for several months been an inmate of the asylum, and who was demented, was found one morning to be in a high state of fever—pulse rapid and of moderate strength; respiration hurried and irregular; skin hard, dry, and hot; temperature 105; face somewhat dusky. Next morning she had profuse and offensive perspiration and dejections. Towards evening acute pain and tenderness of the joints supervened. Two days afterwards small patches of minute pustules appeared on the surface of the joints, and gradually extended over a considerable portion of the limbs. Shortly after the appearance of the pustules the tenderness of the joints disappeared, and the fever lessened, but more gradually. About seven days after, desquamation occurred; and the cuticle which came from the surface where the pustules were most abundant presented a beautifully perforated appearance, the pustules still remaining on the body after the desquamation had taken place, and it was some time before all trace of these had disappeared. The patient gradually improved in her mental condition, and was discharged a few months afterwards, recovered.”