

space at the same time, but this quantity may be doubled, as the patients pass daily a portion of their time in two rooms; besides, there are always several patients confined to their beds, which increases still further the cubic allowance for each. The windows in all the day and sleeping rooms are sufficiently low to admit of the patients having a view from them; they are on the sash principle, and open at the top and bottom for a limited distance; those of the single rooms have shutters, which can be secured at night, and also the dormitories, where they have a louver construction. The extraction is by means of flues, which commence near the ceilings of the different rooms and passages, and pass towards the extremities of the corridor, where are situated the chief chimney flues, distinct from, but adjoining which, these enter the upright shafts, which are carried to a considerable elevation. The ventilation and warming have been found successful during the past winter.

“Owing to the abrupt fall of the ground along a part of the line where the new ward has been placed, it was found cheaper to make a basement under it than to fill up the space with earth. These rooms are well adapted for storing coals, roots, or farm produce, and are of easy access by means of the carriage drive which passes close alongside the new ward. The entire cost of the building, including the architect’s commission, was £2430 6s. 4d., being at the rate of £60 15s. 2d. per head for each patient.”—*Dr. Sherlock’s Ninth Annual Report of the County and City of Worcester Lunatic Asylum, 1863.*

#### *Homicidal Lunatics in County Asylums.*

“I could adduce many instances of the great desire of persons labouring under insanity to avail themselves of the benefit of an asylum, now that the opprobrium which once attached itself to the so-called madman has ceased to exist, now that insanity is acknowledged to be a curable disease, and asylums are regarded as hospitals rather than places merely of confinement. Many of our patients suffering from recurrent insanity seemed pleased to return, and several who have been under treatment have been unwilling to leave after recovery. Were asylums again to me made prisons, the prestige now attached to them would soon be lost. Confidence from insane persons must be won by placing confidence in them. There are, however, in every community some restless spirits, some ill-disposed and ill-conditioned minds, which kindness does not conciliate, and when the little power of self-control which once existed in them has been lost by disease, acts of violence are occasionally committed without any assignable reason. For the safe custody of such county asylums are not suitable places of detention. There are now under treatment here several patients with strong homicidal

propensities. Some of them will shortly be removed to the new criminal lunatic asylum at Broadmoor, but others even of our most dangerous characters will be irremovable because they have not come to us under a warrant from a secretary of state. Happily for all around them, outbreaks of violence may generally be anticipated, and some precautionary measures adopted for the safety of others. In asylums devoted especially to the care of criminal patients, the proportion of attendants is much larger than in county asylums. In county asylums, therefore, seclusion is necessary to an increased extent. I am induced to touch on this subject because, on referring to my journal, I find that seclusions have been more frequent than usual this year for acts of violence not occasioned by maniacal excitement, but the result of delusions, causing in the subject of them a homicidal propensity. In several instances these homicidal propensities have lasted for several weeks without intermission. Twenty-two criminal lunatics have been under treatment here during the past year."—*Dr. Manley, Report of the Hants County Lunatic Asylum. Epiphany Sessions, 1863.*

*Negro Lunatics in the State of Ohio.*

"Not very remote from the subject of improvements, your attention is again called to a class of insane for whom no proper provision has been made. We refer to the negro lunatic. Quite a number of our coloured population are property holders. They pay tax in same proportion with all others, and so long as they do this, it seems but just and reasonable that they should have the advantage of an asylum. But thus far the poor unfortunate insane of them are permitted to remain confined among thieves and rogues in the common jails of the different counties.

"If the legislature would but grant the privilege to our commissioners to purchase another place more suitable for a poor farm for the county paupers, no doubt much benefit would result. The commissioners are not only willing but anxious to attach the present poor farm, which is but seventy-three acres, and adjacent to our own grounds, to this institution. Such addition would be very valuable to us for gardens, pasture, &c. ; while the buildings now on it could be easily and chiefly arranged so as to make a comfortable coloured asylum, as an appendage to Longview. Under such arrangement every care, attention, and benefit of the principal institution might be extended to the branch one, without material increase of cost or labour, only so far as it is necessary to clothe and board the larger number of inmates."—*Dr. Langdon, Report of the Longview Asylum, Ohio, U. S., for the year 1862.\**

\* "In conclusion, it is but proper to acknowledge my obligations to the officers and employées of the asylum. With few exceptions, they have discharged with