

would excuse all monomaniacs from punishment, because such impunity must involve a punishment still more severe; for if monomaniacs are to be irresponsible they must all be confined or restrained.

To sentence a monomaniac to minor punishments seems to me to be possibly justifiable upon grounds of public policy, but to hang a lunatic involves, in my opinion, the commission of an absolute crime, and nothing I have said as to his responsibility for minor crimes can excuse such a sentence, supposing that the convict is of unsound mind. For not any man can swear that at the moment of the act the prisoner knew right from wrong, nor can any jury decide that his crime was unconnected with his lunatic impression. The disease of brain must lead to doubt, and of that doubt by English law and by common justice the prisoner should have the benefit.

I have to apologise to you, sir, and to the members of the Association for taking them over ground that must be so familiar to them; but I have tried to show that lawyers differ as much or more than doctors: thus the law is as uncertain as medicine is thought to be. The remedy for all this is careful, deliberate, and public discussion of disputed points; and I believe that our Association can be made instrumental in rendering essential service to medicine and the law, if the collective opinion of its members upon such questions as those I have brought before them to-day could be elicited and recorded; carrying, as it would, the weight of the practical experience and long study of so many men of high reputation in the special branch of medicine to which they have devoted their attention.

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*On the Insane Poor in Middlesex, and the Asylums at Hanwell and Colney Hatch*, by JAMES G. DAVEY, M.D. St. And., M.R.C.P.L., late Medical Superintendent of the Middlesex Lunatic Asylums at Hanwell and at Colney Hatch, &c.

(Read at the Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, held at the Royal College of Physicians, July 31st, 1867.)

THOSE of us who have kept our attentions directed to the insane poor of Middlesex—to say nothing of outside counties—must have been struck with their largely increased and increasing numbers year by year. Whilst it is a high source of satisfaction to us to know

that there are diseases, neither few nor far between, which it is in our power to very materially modify and diminish, if not entirely to eradicate—whilst, in other words, typhus and cholera and other bodily ailments succumb, in so material degree, to light, air, and water—it must be and is with deep regret we are compelled to confess our inability to contend, with anything like a parallel success, against the dominant and proximate causes so painfully rife among us throughout the length and breadth of this land, and within the small area of the county of Middlesex more especially, of the mind's disorders and irregularities of action. The art and science of hygiene embraces, it may be said (to speak critically), but the outside conditions, the accessory or predisposing phenomena, which lead to insanity; it takes cognisance of the distal links in the chain rather than of those proximal—of the remote and not the near or immediate cause of madness. In what, then, it may be asked, does this proximate or immediate source or starting-point of this dire malady, as it exists among the unfortunate classes alluded to, consist? The reply is a brief one; a single word can embrace it in all its entirety, and that word is—"POVERTY." Poverty, of which it has been truly said "*it eclipses the brightest virtues, and is the very sepulchre of brave designs.*" It is, indeed, the boast of modern medicine to prevent disease—to strangle it at the birth. It is our pride to develop that condition of things in the physical world with which preventible disease is incompatible; but *how* and *where* shall we find the clue to the removal of *poverty*? Is there no hope? Can it be said that poverty is a normal state of things? Is it not true, rather, that it is the mere product of a civilisation only spurious and unreal—of a Christianity only theoretical? I am disposed to believe this, and hence it is I am sanguine that the beneficent results of a reformed and progressive legislation, dictated by the really good and truly wise among men, will, ere very long, so greatly diminish *poverty* that insanity will decline to no small extent among us. But pending such a state of things, and accepting the fact as it stands, let us see if we cannot lessen somewhat the evil complained of, *i. e.* attack the effects of poverty, or, what is the same thing, reduce more or less the great numbers of insane poor in Middlesex, for whom to this time there has never been, and is not now, the necessary asylum accommodation.

Now, the increased and increasing numbers of insane poor in the county of Middlesex is a fact of the first importance to my argument, a necessary condition or preface of and to that suggestion with which this paper concludes. The said increase is really my starting-point, the basis on which all I have to say rests.

The fact, then, as stated, is very easily demonstrated. Thus, at page 38 of the last report of the County Lunatic Asylum at Colney Hatch, I gather that in 1851 there were "of lunatics and idiots chargeable to the county, viz. Middlesex, and to parishes and unions in the

county," 2465; that in 1855 these lunatics and idiots had increased to 3350; that in 1860 they numbered 4048; in 1865, 4650; and that last year, viz. 1866, they, *i. e.* the insane poor in Middlesex, reached so high as 5320. The annexed tabular form presents at one view the foregoing facts.

A.D.	1851.	No. of Lunatics and Idiots	2465
	„	1855.	„ „ 3350
	„	1860.	„ „ 4048
	„	1865.	„ „ 4950
	„	1866.	„ „ 5320

The above figures demonstrate an average increase of 190 persons yearly; a circumstance which carries with it the idea of a future nothing less than alarming.

By reference to the twenty-second, *i. e.* the last, report of the Committee of Visitors of the County Lunatic Asylum at Hanwell, and to page 111 thereof, we learn that, of these 5320 insane poor in Middlesex, so many as 1349 are, or were in January of the present year, "*in workhouses*" or "*with friends*;" or, to put it more accurately, the metropolitan workhouses contain 1251 "*lunatics and idiots*," whilst 98 of the 1349 patients are now under the care of "*friends*." It may be well to mention that the numbers here given on the authority of the Committees of Visitors of the County Asylums at Hanwell and Colney Hatch do not agree with those to be found in the last (*i. e.* 21st) report "of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor." Thus, at page 245 (Appendix K) it is represented that there were on January 1, 1867, 1470 lunatics and idiots "*in workhouses in Middlesex*;" but this discrepancy is of small moment, inasmuch as it affects not the groundwork or basis of my argument to be explained hereafter. Now, to give due force and piquancy to my position, I may be allowed to anticipate somewhat. If, then, we adopt the decimal mode of reckoning, it will follow that the multiplication of 190 (the average increase year by year of the lunatic poor in Middlesex) by ten will give us in 1877 a total of 1900 patients, outside of or over and above the present very large army of insane paupers at this present time in existence, and encumbering those establishments which should be set apart for those simply poor and needy. That is to say, that after a lapse of ten years, the annual increase of insane poor continuing as heretofore, there must then be 1900 in addition to the present 1251 or 1470 pauper lunatics in workhouses, to be accommodated somehow and somewhere. In a letter of mine, published in the '*Lancet*' in April, 1856, a letter which embodies the very sum and substance of this present paper, I have ventured to predict that in twenty-five years from the date just given, or, what is the same thing, in fourteen years from this time, the

“Middlesex magistrates” might expect to be required to find “*additional accommodation for something like 5000 lunatics.*” Doubtless my estimate is a small exaggeration; nevertheless it is seen that from the beginning of 1856 to January of this year the numbers of insane poor in the county (Middlesex) have gone up from 3350 to 5320, so realising an absolute accession, during eleven years, of 1970 persons; this being equivalent to an increase of so many as 4510 patients in the quarter of a century. *Time*, then, that great corrector of man’s aims and aspirations—Time—as Shakespeare has it—

“That please some, try all; both joy and terror  
Of good and bad; that make, and unfold, error”—

has proved me, in this particular instance at least, not very far out in my prophecy. However, the advice first offered in the pages of the ‘*Lancet*’ (April, 1856) was altogether unheeded—if so much as *seen* by those in power—and to this time no sufficient action has been taken in the matter; and hence it is I venture now to repeat a suggestion, to be named presently, which, if acted on as it deserves, would, in my humble judgment, go far to limit the farther increase of insanity among the pauper population.

As a matter of course, we are all agreed on these three points, viz.—

1st.—That the union-house is no fit and proper place for the lunatic poor; *that is, as a very general rule.*

2nd.—That asylums like those at *Hanwell* and at *Colney Hatch* are not adapted by their magnitude and arrangements to the *cure* of mental disease.

3rd.—That the asylums named should be regarded as places for the mere protection and care, day by day, of those irremediably mad.

Under these circumstances, then, what remains to be done? Are there no means within the reach of those with power to act and interested in the cause of the insane poor of Middlesex, whereby a largely extended and much improved means of accommodation and treatment may be secured to those so deeply afflicted? It is with much satisfaction I refer you to the last report of the Commissioners in Lunacy for a very practical response to the question submitted to you. At pages 71 et seq. we find suggestions for the erection of buildings “of a simple style, intermediate in character between the workhouse and the asylum, and consisting chiefly of cheerful, spacious, and well-ventilated day-rooms and dormitories.” For such buildings, or “*district asylums*” (so called by the Commissioners in Lunacy) all due provision is, we learn, made “in the new Metropolitan Poor Act for 1867;” and to these it is proposed to remove from the two large asylums at *Hanwell* and *Colney Hatch*, as well as from the metropolitan workhouses, so large a proportion of the

incurable and chronic cases of lunacy—the accumulations of long years—that the necessary accommodation may be found in the former, *i. e.* the asylums named, for the recent and curable, and in the latter, *i. e.* the workhouses, for that “class of patients among the idiotic and weak minded, whose quiet habits and tractable dispositions not only permit of their living in all respects with the ordinary paupers of workhouses, but even render them very often the most trustworthy and useful of all the inmates in employment about the houses.” It is, I feel, very unlikely for us to withhold our approval from or of the foregoing recommendations, so far as they go. But, to my mind, they lack the necessary completeness. I would submit for the careful consideration of the Medico-Psychological Society that it is before all things desirable to erect in the neighbourhood of London—what there is not now—an hospital for the insane poor; one of the most approved construction, and embracing both in itself and in the general and medical staffs attached thereunto each one and all of those means and appliances held essential, either directly or remotely, *to the relief and cure of the disordered mind.* This hospital must on no account contain more than 250 beds; otherwise it can be no hospital, but simply an asylum. Such an institution as that proposed will be, it is evident to you, altogether unlike either the asylum at Hanwell or that at Colney Hatch.

When, in 1851, I brought before the Committee of Visitors of the Colney Hatch Asylum the foregoing views in regard to the increasing numbers of insane poor, and when also I predicted that, regard being had to such “increasing numbers,” the great palace-like erection at Colney Hatch, with its 1300 beds, including its sister establishment at Hanwell, “would not long continue to accommodate the pauper lunatics in Middlesex” (to quote again from my letter in the ‘Lancet’ for April, 1856), I was answered by an incredulous laugh; but on my adding to such “views” and to such a prophecy, my decided belief that no time should be then lost in providing a small hospital for the *cure* of the pauper lunatic, and on the ground that an asylum so large as Colney Hatch is “too cumbersome, too much like the common union-houses, to embrace the many details necessary to the *cure* of the disordered mind”—that “neither its form of government, nor its internal arrangements, nor its social and domestic economy, were adapted to anything more than the common care and safe custody of its inmates”—the patience of the same committee became utterly exhausted, and I was made to feel that I had, to some extent, exceeded my duty as a medical superintendent.

Now that the experience of many additional years has furnished proof both of the increased and increasing numbers of insane poor, as well as of the many and great advantages of the small “*hospital*”

~~for the insane~~ over the large establishments at Hanwell and Colney Hatch, it follows, necessarily, that such an hospital as that here advised is of the first importance, if we would make the most of the resources of the art and science of medicine, and thereby diminish the present rapidly increasing army of insane among our poorer brethren living in this metropolitan county.

It remains for me to impress on the minds of those who hear me that among the "advantages" just alluded to is *one* of a very especial character and of large significance, viz. the higher per-centage of recoveries which obtain at such small hospitals for the insane, to say nothing of the lower average of deaths. This first must be held to be conclusive; it furnishes the climax to the argument above set forth.

One word more; let me entreat you to give to this short paper your patient attention; permit me to solicit your calm yet earnest consideration of the several points herein touched on, bearing well in mind, not only the general importance of the subject, but its especial application to the present very pressing question, viz. What remains to be done for the due care and accommodation of the present very great and rapidly increasing numbers of lunatic poor in Middlesex?

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*A Comparative Examination of the Laws of Lunacy in Europe.*

By BARON J. MUNDY, M.D., Staff-Surgeon-Major in the Army of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Austria; Membre Associé Étranger de la Société Medico-psychologique de Paris, &c.

(Read at the Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, held at the Royal College of Physicians, July 31st, 1867.)

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN—Allow me before I go into my subject to thank you for the kindness you have displayed to me in electing me a honorary member of your Association, and much more so as it is perhaps to-day for the last time that I shall have the honour to address you before my retirement from this branch of science.

In regard to the subject which I lay before you to-day certainly the time will not suffice to explain you so large and important a question, and even if our meeting extended over two or three days,