

resemble very much in its effect, the old *illutatio* or mud-bath.

There are many other forms of baths, ancient and modern, but I am not aware that there are any other than those I have mentioned employed in the treatment of mental disease. There are some interesting experiments now in progress at Edinburgh, as to the effect of the inspiration of oxygen, which may yet produce a new remedy for melancholia, an oxygen bath; though the disappointment of the hopes that were raised by the discovery of the protoxide of nitrogen and its effects, must prevent our entertaining too sanguine expectations as to the success of this last novelty.

I am aware that in this paper I have very superficially treated a subject of very wide importance; I purpose in a future essay to take in their order different classes of mental disease, and to examine their mode of treatment by the application of water in the various forms of the douche and the bath.

Commission of Lunacy on Mrs. Turner.

A Commission of Lunacy took place at York Castle, on the 23rd and 24th of July last, before F. Barlow, Esq., one of the Masters in Lunacy, relative to the state of mind of Mrs. Mary Jane Turner, the wife of Charles Turner, Esq., official assignee in the Liverpool Bankruptcy Court, then resident at Acomb House, near the city of York.

Mr. Aspinall was counsel, and Mr. Norris, of Liverpool, solicitor to the petitioner; and Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., counsel, and Mr. Pemberton, of Liverpool, solicitor, for the supposed lunatic.

The following evidence was adduced:

Mr. Turner: I am husband of Mary Jane Turner, and was married to her in 1845. In that year I went to live at Bedlington, in Cheshire. In 1846 I went to London, and on my return home Mrs. Turner met me at Lime-street station. I did not expect to meet her. On getting into the car she struck me repeatedly in the face, and said, "Go to your woman." In consequence of what happened I drove to Mr. Stephenson's, on the other side of the water, and he told me what was the matter. On the 2nd Dec., 1846, she broke her leg by leaping out of a window. She spit at me on that occasion, and used most abusive language to me. After this accident I attended her very assiduously, and sat up with her

frequently, so that at length I became ill myself. After she met me at the Lime-street station she became suspicious of me, and charged me with being intimate with women, more especially servants at hotels, lodging-houses, and other places. On June 25th, 1850, she struck me with a poker at Rock Ferry. We had been to Menai Bridge, when a lady passed, and she charged me with looking at her. She became very suspicious. On the 25th of the same month she was very violent, and while I was trying to pacify her, she struck me on the head with a poker, and I fell paralysed. My skull was fractured, and my life was in danger. She afterwards struck at me as I lay in bed, and drank so much that the surgeon would not allow her to attend on me longer. I then gave her into custody, and on recovering in two or three weeks, I declined prosecuting. A deed of settlement was then prepared, and we separated. On the 9th of September, I came over to York to see her, she having written to say she was very ill. She met me at the station, and as she looked ill, I took her to Scotland and the English lakes. I brought her back to York, and I left her. I afterwards met her at Normanton, when she said my bad treatment was driving her mad. In December, I went with her to Southport, and there she seemed to be under the constant impression that I was too intimate with the servants in the hotel. I could not walk in the streets without her breaking out and charging me with too great familiarity. I took her home, and on one occasion she seized me by the hair of the head and dragged me very severely. Mrs. Turner's jealousy was of two kinds—of my family and of women. She said my father's house was no better than a common brothel, and my sister no better than she should be. I was with her at Birkenhead and New Brighton in the autumn of 1851, where she repeated her former charges respecting me and the servants. In 1853, I went to live in Liverpool. In that year a deed of separation was prepared, and I allowed her £200 a-year. Prior to this she had struck at me. From that time, June 17, we lived apart. There never was the slightest ground for her suspicions respecting me, neither for her imputations of cruelty. On the 19th of December last, I received a telegraphic message from Mr. England, my wife's brother-in-law at Leeds, and in consequence I sent for Mr. Redhead, a clergyman, whom I asked to act for me, I being at the time very ill. At that time I received a letter from Mrs. Turner, at York.

Cross-examined: My marriage was for a time kept secret from my father and friends. I told them of the fact of our marriage when she broke her leg. I lived with Mrs. Turner previous to our marriage. I was passionately attached to her, and I believed she was to me. She was jealous before her marriage, but not to the same extent as afterwards. She thought, however, she would be better when we were married. Of course I lost my temper at times when she was very violent. I called her sometimes a strumpet. I did

not reproach her with being in the dirt when I married her; and she might go there again. When she struck me with a poker, there was something said about the housemaid. I did not say the maid had as much right there as she had, and that she should be there after Mrs. Turner had gone. At the time she broke her leg, I was not living from home more than business compelled me. I have never taken a knife and threatened her—not just before she broke her leg. I once took a stick to her—I wrested it from her hand. She has taken a knife to me. After the separation in 1853, I corresponded with her occasionally. I never asked her to return and live with me. The letter produced was written after the separation, and it would seem such an offer was made, but I scarcely knew what I wrote, as I was nearly heart-broken. In 1851, when I saw her in York, she looked ill. She told me she thought they had poisoned her with fish. My friends were much opposed to my marriage. She could neither read nor write when I married her, but she writes admirably, and is now a woman of some accomplishments. She managed her household affairs well, and no one had a more comfortable home at first. I did not keep much society, and when I was away she was left alone. Sometimes I was absent for two or three days at a time. When she struck me in 1853, I gave her into charge of a policeman. I had just before told her that the servants she had discharged should not go. She has written me twelve letters since she has been at Acomb House. I only have two of them. (These two letters were read, and in one of them Mrs. Turner said that if she was proved a lunatic, Mr. Turner would be £800 richer for it.) The learned counsel asked if the remainder of the letters were not equally kind, coherent, and affectionate as the one read, to which the witness replied in the affirmative, but in many instances they were not, he had reason to believe, her own production. He had destroyed the other letters. I will not swear whether Mr. Norris requested me to produce all the letters. I destroyed five or six after I received the notice now produced.

Mr. W. Hey, surgeon, Leeds, deposed to being called up at four o'clock in the morning of the 19th of December last by Mrs. Turner and a policeman. She informed him that she had been poisoned on the previous evening at a friend's house at Headingley, and she had left them. She had with her two tin cases, and she stated that her object in coming to Leeds was to have their contents examined by a competent medical man, as she suspected while in Scarbro' she had been poisoned. There were several jars, containing a large piece of butter, vomit, &c. She said she would have the jars sent to Professor Taylor for analysis, and afterwards told me that she would take them to Mr. Procter's at York.

The *Rev. Thos. Fisher Redhead*, incumbent of Rockferry, was next examined, and spoke to the violence which some years ago he had noticed in Mrs. Turner's conduct, and of what he saw and

knew of her when in December last he came in search of her. When in the chemist's shop she said she had been poisoned at the Railway Hotel the night before, and she also accused him of having endeavoured to administer poison to her.

Mr. Procter, surgeon, deposed to seeing Mrs. Turner for the first time on the 21st of December last, when she asked him to analyse the contents of two tin cases which she had with her, and which she said contained articles of food and vomit. She informed him that some attempts to poison her had been made, and these she attributed to her husband, from whom she was parted. He declined to make the analysis, and referred her to Professor Taylor. The next day he saw her with Mr. Redhead, when she said she had been poisoned the previous night at the hotel where she had stopped. They arranged that she should go to Mrs. Potter's and the next morning Dr. Simpson and he visited her. They found her trying to make herself vomit, as she said Mrs. Potter had endeavoured to poison her. She told them she had been cruelly treated by her husband, and that he intrigued with every woman he met and his own servants. They formed an opinion of her, that she was of unsound mind, and they signed a paper. That night he was called up about one o'clock. He found her in company with a policeman in the Minster Yard, and he remonstrated with her on her impropriety of conduct. She refused to go to a house where, she said, attempts had been made to poison her. He said he could not leave her under the circumstances, and if she would not go to his house, she must go to the police-office. She went there, and the next day, Mr. North (in the absence of Dr. Simpson) and he signed the certificate for her removal to Acomb, without any communication with Mr. Redhead. He had seen her three times since, the last time being Tuesday or Wednesday. He was of opinion she was still of unsound mind.

In cross-examination, he said she was very much improved from December, but the delusion was still there, though in a modified form.

Dr. Simpson said that he agreed with the previous witness as to the unsound state of Mrs. Turner's mind in December last. At the instance of her solicitor, on the 12th of the present month he visited her, and had ten interviews with her since. She was much better now than she was in December, her conversation being more rational and consistent, but he was decidedly of opinion that the delusion under which she laboured in December still exists. When alluding to her delusion, she spoke with great caution, and she carefully avoided making use of the term "poison." This was a common occurrence in persons labouring under delusions. She still labours under her old delusion, but it is either less intense or else she is more guarded.

Cross-examined: Cases may exist where persons, on recovery, retain no recollection of the past, and others have an insuperable

antipathy in speaking of their former delusion when completely recovered. Instances of insanity are very varied, and so are instances of recovery.

By the COMMISSIONER: I should have signed the certificate. I believe she was not competent to take care of herself and property. I would not advise her removal from the asylum.

Dr. Caleb Williams deposed that he saw Mrs. Turner on Monday week, at the instance of Mr. Pemberton, and had seen her nine times since. He considered she was now labouring under delusions, and that she is of unsound mind.

Cross-examined: I have seen no alteration in her, and it may require six months or a year and a half to restore her. I should not feel justified in now signing a certificate for her removal from Acomb.

Mr. S. W. North deposed that he signed the certificate, but he had not seen her since.

Mr. J. W. Metcalfe, surgeon and proprietor of Acomb House, stated that he received Mrs. Turner into his establishment on the 24th of December. He noticed a want of collectedness about her. She said she was glad she had come there as a place of protection, assigning as a reason that she had suffered from poison introduced into her food by persons who wished to injure her. Mr. Pemberton visited her on the 1st of June, and after that she became more calm, and never used the word poison afterwards. She is at present in an unsound state of mind, and it would not be safe for her to be at large.

Cross-examined: I am paid three guineas a week for her, with extras. I have called her a w——. I never made her strip naked before me. She has undressed before me. She might demur to undressing before me. I will not swear that I did not say to her, "You have stripped before many men before now." I did not call her a sanctified, pious w——. I will swear I don't remember calling her a sanctified w——. I will swear I did not. Q. Will you swear you did not call her a pious w——? A. I don't remember. Q. Will you swear it? A. I will. Q. Did you not seize her by the neck, throw her down, and say, "You w——, I am up to all the tricks of a w——?" I might. She complained of her comb being broken into her head. She screamed out not in pain, but she screamed out. I will not swear I called her a sanctified w——, and told her to walk into the room and undress herself. She might say she would not do so till I retired. I have never beaten her physically. I did not say to her that I should stay while she undressed, for I had been at a hospital where there were seventy whores, but she was the worst of all, and that if she had not stripped before other men I would excuse her, nor language to that effect. I did, however, use language meaning that. When she escaped the second time, I found her in Blake-street. She was in bed. I broke open the door. My authority for doing so is the

fact, that when I have persons under my treatment I consider it my duty to take every care of them. I might call my groom to my assistance in carrying her to the cab. She told me I tore the sleeve of her chemise off. She complained of my treading on her foot, and that she was thrust against the bedstead. My wife was present at the time, and put a pillow between the poor creature and the bed stock. No complaint was ever made to me before now.

Dr. Swaine, medical visitor to the private lunatic asylums in the neighbourhood of York, stated that he considered Mrs. Turner to be of unsound mind.

Dr. Daniel Tuke was called, but did not answer, he having been obliged to leave.

This closed the petitioner's case.

In reply to questions from the Commissioner, Drs. Simpson and Williams said that, supposing the allegations against Mr. Metcalfe as to certain improprieties were correct, it would make no difference in their opinion of the state of the patient's mind.

Mr. Turner said that his wife's letters contained some complaints as to the insults she received while at Acomb, but he did not think there was any ground for his removing her. He would do anything which contributed to her comfort, and he did not wish her to remain at Acomb if there was any valid ground of complaint.

By *Mr. JAMES*: You would be sorry to have her called a "sanctified, pious w——?"

Mr. Turner: I should be sorry to hear her called anything at all.

The COMMISSIONER then had a long conversation with Mrs. Turner, which was generally inaudible across the table. She generally denied having ever said she had been poisoned, that she had not been assisted in writing her letters from Acomb by Mr. Pemberton, that Mr. Metcalfe's conduct towards her was even worse than had been indicated by her counsel, and that she was now in perfect health of body and mind.

The following witnesses were called on her behalf:

Mr. John Owen deposed: I am the keeper of an asylum near Liverpool, and I have had experience in the treatment of lunatics for thirty-four or thirty-five years. Mine is a large establishment. I had forty-four patients when I left home, and I have had the care of from 2,000 to 3,000. Of these there have been a considerable number restored to reason. I was not acquainted with Mrs. Turner till the day before yesterday. I was in her company last evening. I saw her the day before at Acomb House, in a great measure alone. I conversed with her last evening very much. Q. Both with respect to the delusions charged and other subjects? A. Scarcely on that point, because I thought it had been overworked. Did you observe anything indicative of unsoundness of mind? I did not. Was her conversation coherent? Perfectly. Rational? Per-

fectly. Consequent? Consequent. And nothing to indicate in your mind the presence of unsoundness? Nothing. Supposing a person labours under an impression, more or less intense, that certain persons have been aiming at her life, and she finds herself injured by those very persons, in your judgment would cruel treatment have a tendency or not to increase that impression? Decidedly so. I hope gentle means are generally adopted with lunatic patients. Repose and gentle treatment would be likely to remove insanity, but harsh treatment, cruelty, and opprobrious language, would certainly not be likely to do so. Q. Have you, in the course of your experience, heard of such treatment as that of Mr. Metcalfe? A. I have read of something similar occurring in Bedlam in former days. The result of your interview is, that Mrs. Turner is capable of taking care of her person and her property? I am decidedly of that opinion in her present state.

Cross-examined: It frequently happens that a person labouring under a delusion is able, for one or two interviews, to conceal the state of her mind, even from an experienced person. Assuming it to be true she has had delusions, I believe the conversations I have had with her afford me sufficient means of now saying that those delusions have now ceased entirely.

Re-examined: I trust my own opinion only.

Dr. George Wilkin said: I have had some experience in the treatment of lunatics. I saw Mrs. Turner at the asylum alone. I had a slight conception of the delusion attributed to her. I conversed with her to ascertain whether or not she was of sound mind. I saw her the day before yesterday at the asylum, and here yesterday, as well as afterwards at the hotel, where I conversed with her. I exerted myself to discover whether unsoundness of mind existed. The result of my judgment is, that she is now of sound mind, and able to take care of herself and her property. I have read many works on insanity, and it cannot be concealed by a patient when touched upon. There is a certain chord which, when once struck, indicates insanity. In all the conversations I have had with Mrs. Turner, I have not been able touch such a chord as that. She is not cunningly concealing insanity.

Cross-examined: I have practised in London rather better than twelve months. I was in Shrewsbury for a short time, and in Liverpool before that. I went to London at the instance of some of the nobility.

Re-examined: I was nearly ten years in practice at Liverpool.

Mr. Thos. Dismore, jeweller and silversmith, Liverpool, next deposed: I have been acquainted with Mrs. Turner for seven or eight years. I have had occasional opportunities of seeing her. I had a long conversation with her on Thursday afternoon at the asylum. I did not then observe any alteration in her conversation. She had always a decision in her style of talking, and she talked precisely the same way she did before. I should not have come to

the conclusion, from my conversation with her, that she was of unsound mind.

Mr. Pemberton deposed: I am an attorney practising in Liverpool, and the trustee for Mrs. Turner under the deed of 1853 made between Mr. Turner and his wife. Since the deed was executed I have transmitted the money as I have received it. I never saw Mrs. Turner from June, 1853, until the present year, nor did I correspond with her other than at each quarter day remitting the money. I remember hearing of this unfortunate affair in December; to the best of my belief it was before Christmas day. I did not go to see Mrs. Turner before I received a letter from her. I received the letter produced from her in March last. On the receipt of the letter I went and saw Mr. Norris, Mr. Turner's solicitor. I read the letter to him, and expressed my astonishment. I also reproached myself with being neglectful in not going to see Mrs. Turner in December, I presented myself before Mr. Metcalfe within a day or two of the receipt of the letter. I took with me the deed constituting me her trustee. I requested permission to be allowed to see her, and I referred Mr. Metcalfe, if he had any doubt of my identity, to Mr. Simpson, my agent, a proctor in York. He said there was no occasion for that, as he had known me in Liverpool, where he was a medical man. He refused permission for me to see her in anything but a kind manner. I told him I had received that letter, and that was the occasion of my coming. He said he would not allow parties to see patients in his house unless they had placed them there.

Mr. JAMES here read the letter, which was dated the 2nd of March, and in which the following sentences occurred:—"Dear Sir, I write to inform you that I have made my escape from the asylum last night. I have been very cruelly treated by them, and very cruelly treated and neglected by your not coming to see yourself to ascertain whether there was any foundation for such accusations, and such a tone of unkind treatment and cruelty. Excuse me, my dear Sir, when I say I think it was your duty, as my trustee, to come and see me. It is very cruel of you and Mr. Turner to leave me there three months without taking the slightest notice of me, instead of coming to see me yourselves." She then described that at Acomb she was denied the rights and privileges of a goal, and that every living creature was denied access to her. She felt convinced she had been wrongly and most cruelly represented by Mr. Metcalfe, by a word or two she had heard him say. She concluded as follows: "Come to me the moment you receive this note. Remember it is a woman; a woman's mind you have got to save from destruction, for if am detained any longer where I am now, I shall break my heart."

The MASTER briefly summed up, telling the jury that at least twelve of them must be unanimous, whatever their verdict might be. He thought it was admitted that this lady was of

unsound mind, and properly a person to be under some jurisdiction in December last, and the question was whether, between that time and the present, she had recovered her intellect, and whether they considered she had perfectly recovered, and was now a person of sound mind and capable of taking care of herself and her property.

The Jury retired at a quarter before two o'clock, and in half an hour returned into Court, when Mr. CLOUGH, the FOREMAN of the jury, said that thirteen of them were of opinion that Mrs. Turner was of sound mind, and seven were of a contrary opinion.

The following verdict was then handed to the MASTER: "We find Mary Jane Turner to be of sound mind, and the jury cannot separate without reflecting upon the disgraceful conduct of Mr. Metcalfe, the keeper of Acomb House, and beg to draw the attention of the Commissioners in Lunacy thereto." Mr. Clough added that he should not register his vote, and that the jury had particularly requested that the above expression of opinion might be embodied with the verdict.

The MASTER: The only verdict is the verdict whether the lady is of sound or unsound mind.

Mr. CLOUGH: That is what I explained to the jury.

The MASTER said he must take the opinion of the thirteen jurymen as to the state of Mrs. Turner's mind, and any other recommendation he would deal with in a different way.

Mr. PEMBERTON asked the representatives of the press to take notice of this presentment.

The inquisition was then signed by the thirteen, as to Mrs. Turner being of sound mind, Mr. Clough, the foreman, declining to do so.

Commission of Lunacy on Mr. Ruck.

On the 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th days of August, a commission of lunacy was opened by Edward Winslow, Esq., Master in Lunacy, and a special jury, at the large hall of St. Clement's inn, Strand, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of mind of Lawrence Ruck, Esq., of Sittingbourne, Kent, and Montgomeryshire. The case created considerable excitement, there being a large number of gentlemen interested present.

Mr. Montague Chambers, Q.C., Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, and Mr. Vaughan appeared for the petitioner (the wife of the alleged lunatic); and Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., Mr. Serjeant Petersdorff, and Mr. Gordon Allan for the alleged lunatic, who was present from the commencement.