

memories, imaginations, and, in short, all mental acts or states whatever take place through the intervention and instrumentality of the nervous system, the great centre of which is the brain; and that we have no proof that *in our present state* any mental act whatever can be performed except through that instrumentality. Thus, mental derangement, imbecility, loss or failure of memory, and similar phenomena, in all their melancholy variety, are so many indications and effects of an impaired or a diseased condition of the nervous system. That the young apprehend and learn more quickly than the old results from the different conditions of the brain in the two periods; and a thousand familiar appearances are explained in the same manner.

Insanity is now regarded by physicians, that is, by men who are acquainted with the subject, as a *bodily disease* as much as fever, rheumatism, or consumption, and it is treated accordingly. I do not go about to prove these things, because this is not the proper place, and because they are too familiarly known to need proof. I state them only as truths regarding the constitution of our nature, which scientific investigators have revealed and demonstrated, and the general result of which is to expose those heathen notions which I formerly mentioned as equally false and profane.

From the researches of men who study facts by the light of reason, let us turn to the testimony of those who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, and we shall find "the sure word of prophecy" confirming most emphatically what the former have declared. The Holy Scriptures, then, inform us that man's body, no less than his soul, is the work of God, and that He made both of them "very good;" that both are alike fallen and polluted by sin, both alike redeemed by the blood of Christ, both alike objects of sanctification by the Holy Spirit; and that the body is co-heir, with the soul, of that immortal life which is God's promise to us in His Son. No contrast can be more striking than between the language of contempt and even of hatred, in which the heathen sages speak of the body and the reverential and honorable terms used by the sacred writers on the same subject.—*The Duty of caring for the Body, a sermon preached before the Queen, in the parish church of Crathie.*

The Berlin Asylum.

The capital of Prussia has hitherto been remarkable for its neglect of its insane inhabitants and its backwardness in adopting those ameliorations of their condition found in the Asylums of wellnigh every other city of Europe. It is therefore with much pleasure that we read of a movement to provide a fitting special institution for 600 chronic lunatics, having one also for idiots in connection with it. These chronic lunatics and the idiots have been hitherto confined in

a most unfit building in the centre of Berlin, known as the "Arbeitshaus," or Workhouse. The condition of those suffering from recent insanity is not better, for these are congregated in the wards of one section of the General Hospital of La Charité, having besides the patients afflicted with syphilis placed in other wards of the same section of this city institution. It is to be hoped now that the chronic cases are in the way of getting proper attention, that the acute cases will also have their claim to humane and proper treatment efficiently attended to.

Dr. Paget on the Study of Natural Science as a branch of higher education.

"The *general* question, whether the study of natural science should become an established part of the education of the higher classes, is a subject of such interest as to need no apology for its introduction before any audience, and least of all before you. It is not only one of the great educational questions of the day, but a question, in the right solution of which no class is more interested than is our profession. I confess that, to me, it seems high time to consider whether natural science might not be useful as part of a liberal education, when an author of great distinction and undoubted learning—one whose writings have been rewarded with the applause of the educated world and with some of the highest dignities in the gift of the Crown—states as a "well-attested fact, that a man's body is lighter when he is awake than sleeping; a fact" (he says) "which every nurse who has carried a child would be able to attest;" and concludes from these *well-attested facts* that "the human consciousness, as an inner centre, works as an opposing force to the attraction of the earth." I quote from a *seventh* edition, *revised*. To my mind, the *necessity* for more general instruction in natural science needs no further proof, when ladies and gentlemen appear in a court of law to vouch their belief in the supernatural powers of a crystal globe; when those who are called highly educated throng the necromancer's consulting room to hear disembodied spirits rap on his table; when they daily become the dupes of barefaced quackeries; and, while avowing their belief in what is absurd or even impossible, plume themselves on their superiority to prejudice, regard themselves with complacency as walking in the spirit of the age—as being *au courant* with its progress—and class with the persecutors of Galileo any who question the accuracy of their facts or the logic of their conclusions. Whatever may be thought of the enlightenment of the present age, there can be no doubt of the readiness and boldness with which it forms or avows its opinions. Far be it from me to question the birthright of an