

to asylums. The management of pauper lunatic asylums is most creditable to the humanity and scientific skill of their medical superintendents, and the experience gained in them has contributed to the amelioration of the treatment of the insane of the upper and middle classes. These satisfactory results cannot of course be obtained without paying for them, and the cry which is going up for a diminution of the burden of county rates may possibly produce some interference with the views enlightened philanthropy entertains as to the proper mode of treating pauper lunatics. It seems probable that financial boards will be constituted in counties, and that ratepayers will have a choice in deciding questions which have hitherto been settled by a committee of magistrates. We doubt whether the representative vestryman is likely to act in harmony with the medical superintendent of a pauper lunatic asylum. It is a mistake to assume that expenditure upon these asylums is not true economy; but it is a mistake which uninstructed mind are very likely to fall into. But whatever conflicts may be in store for medical officers of lunatic asylums in England, we foresee that in Ireland, under Mr. Gladstone's Bill, they will find a paradise. They are to be invited to help to spend the surplus property of the disendowed Church, and we venture to believe that they will be found equal to the occasion. The pauper lunatic asylums of Ireland are likely to become models of complete arrangement and scientific management, and although we do not suppose that people will pretend madness to gain admission to them, we do suppose that pauperism will be assumed in order to obtain gratuitous maintenance and medical treatment for persons who ought to pay for it. In any asylum in England now the condition of a pauper lunatic is incomparably preferable to that of the most wealthy lunatics in any asylum of the last century. Indeed, the most wealthy lunatics were frequently the worst treated. Perhaps lunatics and idiots who remained in their own homes were treated better than those who were placed in asylums. The feelings of humanity would assert themselves in uninstructed bosoms, and it was only a pretended science that applied systematic cruelty to that portion of mankind which most deserved the pity of its fellows. There has been no more remarkable change of ideas than that which has almost banished from lunatic asylums the whole apparatus of restraint. It would be melancholy to think that, along with so great improvement in the treatment of mental disease, there is a tendency in advancing civilisation to multiply the subjects of it. But Dr. Robertson has shown that this opinion, although not destitute of apparent foundation, is erroneous.—*The Saturday Review.*

OPENING OF A NEW CHAPEL AT THE LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY ASYLUM.

A MOST interesting ceremony took place at the County Lunatic Asylum, at Bracebridge, on Tuesday last. In consequence of the additions which have been made to the Asylum, the original chapel became too small for the requirements of the inmates, and the Committee of Visitors were accordingly authorised to erect a detached chapel, capable of accommodating a congregation of 450, and to convert the old building into a recreation-hall, the cost altogether not to exceed £2,000. The new chapel is 70ft. 9in. by 45ft. There are separate entrances for the sexes, through porches 7ft. 6in. by 7ft., between which are two retiring-rooms for epileptics, 10ft. by 7ft 4in. The roof is high pitched, all the timbers being exposed to view, and plastered between the rafters. At the east end is a raised dais for Communion purposes, enclosed by a suitable railing, and floored with encaustic tiles. A robing-closet is formed behind the pulpit, and a similar enclosure in the opposite corner forms an inside porch to the chaplain's entrance. The sittings, robing room, and retiring rooms are floored with wood, the remainder with blue and red Staffordshire tiles. All the fittings from the old chapel were again used. The windows are glazed with cathedral glass, in lead lights. The woodwork exposed to view is stained and varnished. The stone for the walls and for lime were obtained upon the estate. The west gable is sur-

mounted by a small bellcote. The original chapel has been altered, so as to fit it for a recreation-hall. It is 45ft. by 37ft., with a raised stage 14ft. by 6ft., and a gallery 36ft by 7ft. Both the new chapel and the recreation hall are warmed by Gurney's stoves. The plans were prepared by the Surveyor to the Visitors (Mr. Young), according to instructions from Dr. Palmer, and the total cost has not exceeded the means placed at the disposal of the committee. The contract has been carried out in a very creditable manner by Messrs. E. Otter and Binns, of Lincoln, under the superintendence of Mr. William Young, as clerk of works.

At eleven o'clock divine service was held in the new chapel, the congregation comprising a large number of the visiting justices and their families, the workmen employed at the Asylum, and about 300 of the patients, who conducted themselves in a most orderly and attentive manner. The prayers were read by the chaplain (the Rev. C. C. Ellison), the 1st Lesson by the Rev. Prebendary Perry, and the second Lesson by the Rev. J. Swift. The Communion Service was read by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln: the Chaplain read the Epistle, and the Bishop the Gospel. The Bishop then preached an excellent sermon from the 27th verse of the 14th chapter of St. John—"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." The offertory in aid of the poor of the parish, amounted to £6 12s. 1d. The Holy Communion was afterwards administered to 77 communicants.

At two o'clock, Dr. and Mrs. Palmer entertained a large party of friends at luncheon in the recreation-hall, which was tastefully decorated with flowers for the occasion. The guests included the Bishop of Lincoln, Mrs. and Miss Wordsworth, Ven. Archdeacon Trollope, Miss Mackenzie, the Mayor of Lincoln, Lieut.-Col. Ellison, Messrs. G. K. Jarvis, J. Bromhead, W. Parker, (Hanthorpe), J. Paradise, R. Hall W. Beard, and W. G. Glasier, Mr. and Mrs. Tweed, the Rev. Prebendary and Mrs. Perry, Revs. G. T. Harvey, E. M. Barrett, P. Curtois, and J. J. Swift, the Misses Dudding, Mrs. Mulhall, Rev. C. C. and Mrs. Ellison, &c. —*Lincolnshire Chronicle, May 21.*

GLIMPSES OF ASYLUM LIFE. BY HENRY HAWKINS, M.A.

Facing a beautiful range of the South Downs stands one of our large county asylums. Its southern aspect is surpassingly rich and varied. In the immediate foreground are the trim Italian terraces and gardens partly private, partly appropriated as exercise grounds for the inmates of the establishment.

And what a lovely landscape is spread before their eyes as they sit or walk in the well-kept grounds! The view would be worthy of a royal palace. Beyond the nearer precincts of the building is the well-wooded, park-like farm. A quaint old farmhouse, with the date 1666 on its southern wall, is partly seen at a short distance in a hollow. In the fields and gardens, patients, with their attendants, are at work.

Here and there the spire or tower of a country church adds beauty to the scenery. Now and then the line of white vapour shows the course of the distant train. Further off are the softly undulating South-down hills, presenting endless varieties of beauty. They delight the eye under almost every change of season and of weather, sometimes appearing nearer to the eye—ominous, then, of bad weather—sometimes more remote; sometimes standing clear and bright in the sunshine, or overshadowed by the passing cloud, or partly shrouded by mist, or at times in winter capped or covered with snow.

Surely the charm and loveliness of the surrounding scenery must, in many instances, imperceptibly soothe and tranquillise the afflicted mind, and contribute, more even than direct remedies, towards restoring its peace and healthful balance. The very air which "nimble and sweetly recommends itself unto the gentle senses" can hardly fail to prove health-restoring.