

proportion of patients in the acute stage. No less than 97 (Table III) were received during the past year, within the first six months of the attack; and 80 cases of an equal early period were received during the former year; and, in fine, there are upwards of 400 females in the active stage of the disease now under treatment.”—

*Dr. Sankey. ‘Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Female Department of the Middlesex Lunatic Asylum at Hanwell, January Quarter Sessions, 1863.’*

#### *The proposed Lunatic Wards in Union Houses.*

“The Act passed in the last session of Parliament gives a greater latitude to the provisions of the Act of 1845. It has yet to be proved to what extent that expansion of principle can be made available for the relief of the Littlemore Asylum; a very limited power is given to the visitors of making arrangements with the guardians of any Poor Law Union for the reception and care of chronic lunatics. The concurrent powers given to the Commissioners in Lunacy is rather more than coextensive. The possible arrangement would need to be carried out under a variety of authority; and it does not appear to me that the power conferred can be more satisfactorily exercised than the power which the visitors previously had, and from time to time used. The visitors had the power to discharge a harmless patient to the care of his friends, or absolutely to discharge if they saw fit. The exercise of the power now given is subject to the guardians satisfying the Poor Law Board and the Commissioners in Lunacy that the union house can fitly receive lunatics. The visitors have never shown a disposition to retain patients in the asylum who could be satisfactorily taken care of by their friends, or under other responsible persons in their own neighbourhoods, provided that the charge which they have undertaken as visitors is duly regarded. Before transferring any patients to a workhouse, the questions to be determined will be as to the fitness of the house for the reception and care of lunatic patients whose condition has been confirmed by the length of time they may have been insane; of the selection of such patients to be made by the superintendent; of the ability of the medical officer of the union to certify, after fourteen days’ detention, that the patient is a proper person to be kept in the workhouse, and that the house affords proper accommodation; and as to the satisfaction of the Visiting Commissioners. Now the superintendent of an asylum has no knowledge or responsibility as regards the fitness of a workhouse to receive lunatics until it is approved by the constituted authorities for the care of chronic lunatics. He can have no knowledge as to

the disposition of the guardians of any particular union to have their lunatics transferred from the county asylum to the workhouse of another union. He knows the habits and conduct of the patient under his care; and, under the rule of asylum management, he does not know what effect the proposed change may have on many tranquil patients. He sees, however, from time to time, that patients who have been apparently fit to return home, have been unable to bear the prospect of their discharge; and he would feel that the sending of tranquil patients to a workhouse asylum and having them returned to the county asylum would be very unsatisfactory, and not economical."—*Mr. Ley. 'Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Littlemore Asylum, Oxford, for 1862.'*

*Fifty years' results at the Nottingham Asylum.*

"On the 12th of February, 1862, the asylum had been in operation fifty years. A reference to the tables will show that the amount of success that has attended the labours of those who have promoted its objects during this lengthened period has been such as to justify the expectations of its founders; and I have pleasure in stating that professional strangers who now visit the establishment record, notwithstanding its age, their favorable impressions of the completeness of the existing arrangements.

Results of treatment, 1812-62—

a. 1812-59.— <i>Private and pauper patients, both received</i>	
(47 years).—Total admissions, 2970.	
Per-centage of recoveries on admissions	. 42·5
„ deaths on mean population	. 8·3
b. 1860-63.— <i>Pauper patients only received (3 years).</i> —	
Total admissions, 310.	
Per-centage of recoveries on admissions	. 39·7
„ deaths on mean population	. 13·5."

—*Dr. W. P. Stiff. 'Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Nottingham County Lunatic Asylum, 1863.'*

*Moral Treatment at the Belfast District Asylum.*

"*Amusements of the patients.*—During the past year a large number of both sexes of the inmates was privileged to attend 'Dr. Mark's Concert of Little Men,' in the Victoria Hall, that gentleman having voluntarily and very kindly given a free admission to as many as were considered fitted to witness such an entertainment, and