

larger than in a private house, probably not so large; and wilful damage, other than that stated, there is none."—*Mr. Green. 'Twelfth Annual Report of the Birmingham Lunatic Asylum, 1862.'*

Advantage of a General Dining Hall for each Sex.

"A second year's experience of the use of the large central hall as a general dining and reading room for the men patients, strengthens the opinion originally formed of the advantage which might be anticipated from such an arrangement. The hall is regularly used as a public dining room by about 360 men patients. These comprise, not only the quiet and orderly, but also those who under ordinary circumstances would be classified as noisy and refractory. The essential conditions insisted upon for those dining in the hall are an ordinary demeanour, and that they shall be engaged in some kind of employment. There is no question as to the preference which the patients feel for dining in the hall, to having this meal in their wards; and this acts as a powerful incentive to many of the wayward and irritable, as well as the lethargic and melancholic, to qualify themselves for the privilege by conforming to the conditions previously referred to, namely, preserving an orderly demeanour, and showing a disposition to engage in some occupation."—*Mr. Cleaton. 'Forty-third Report of the West Riding of York Lunatic Asylum, 1863.'*

Public Concerts in the West Riding Asylum.

"In the month of November a morning performance of the 'Elijah,' under the patronage of the visiting justices, was given in the asylum church, by the two principal church choirs of the town and the asylum choir, kindly assisted by several professional and amateur friends, together with an efficient band—in all about seventy performers. The public were admitted by tickets at six shillings, four shillings, and two shillings and sixpence; the vacant seats in the aisle being occupied by a certain number of the more intelligent patients of both sexes.

"The performance was, musically, most successful, and the proceeds were devoted to the asylum organ fund, and to the incidental expenses of the choirs.

"During the last month, also, a very interesting and successful performance of the music of the 'Handel Festival Selection' of Wednesday, June 25th, 1862, by a good choir of fifty voices, com-

prising the leading amateurs and professionals of the town and neighbourhood, took place in the large dining hall of the institution."

The Death-rate in the Female Department at Hanwell.

"Ninety-four patients died during the past year. In the year preceding, the number was 76, and in 1860, 54. The number has not only been greater, but the ratio higher, for in

1859	the rate of mortality was	. .	7·3	per cent.
1860	" "	. .	7·5	"
1861	" "	. .	8·5	"
1862	" "	. .	10·19	"

"The committee, observing this increase, called for a report from the medical officers on the subject at an early period of the past year. The increase of the rate of mortality being at all times a matter of moment, I examined into all the matters likely to be in operation in bringing about such a result. The conclusions arrived at by such an examination were as follows:

"In examining the statistical records of the asylum for a series of years, it became apparent that there was no cause in operation which could have a tendency to augment the rate of mortality, with regard to what might be classified as casual or accidental circumstances; that is to say, the patients were not received in a worse condition, at a different epoch of the disease, nor were the patients older or more weakly, nor the disease of severer character than usual. The operating cause, in fine, was not of an extraordinary character; the result was clearly due to ordinary causes acting in the ordinary manner. It appeared that the nature of the malady is to terminate either by cure or death at a certain epoch; that, in fact, the activity of the morbid processes wear themselves out, more or less, in a period of three years. It was found that in about one half of the patients who had died in the asylum from its first establishment, death had occurred in the first three years of residence, and one half subsequent to that period. (See table XX, in Appendix to the Hanwell Report.)

"It further became manifest that the relative proportion of patients who had been resident three years, and who had been resident more than three years, had lately undergone a great change. Formerly, or in the six years from 1853 to 1859, out of 100 patients, 20 had been resident less than three years, and 80 more than three years. But lately, that is, since the enlargement of the asylum, and the consequent large influx of patients, in every 100