

both as regards time and money, even when they succeed in justifying their act, and gaining a verdict.

“The number of sensation novels and plays which have been issued of late years, in which the plot turns chiefly on the unjust confinement of some sane person on the pretext of insanity, seems greatly to have contributed to this state of things—a result strangely at variance with the facts established by the careful judicial investigations of the Commissioners in Lunacy for England, Ireland, and Scotland, from which it would appear that such a case is almost literally unknown; or if it has apparently occurred in a solitary instance, it has been followed by the immediate discharge of the alleged lunatic, thus demonstrating the safety with which the present statutes have guarded the liberty of the subject.

“Surely it would have been a hundredfold more desirable for the wretched homicide, whose mind has been weakened and perverted by vicious habits, for his unhappy family and the community at large, that he should have been timeously placed in an hospital for the cure of degraded and overpowering habits, and unaccountable delusions. Better, surely, that such treatment should be legalised as at once an act of mercy to the individual, and of social duty to the community, than that such a person should be allowed to walk about to the alarm of a whole neighbourhood, until, it may be, he has even sacrificed the life of a fellow-creature, incurred the last sentence of the law, caused a large expense to the country by his trial, and raised a thousand conflicting doubts as to the justice of his sentence—doubts which are never raised in connection with the administration of justice without injury to its authority, whether its decrees are enforced, or the doubts solved by a relaxation of its demands, the tendency of which is to diminish its power as a check upon crime.”—*Dr. Skae, ‘Annual Report of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the Insane for the year 1862.’*

Results of Treatment in two thousand cases at the Somerset Asylum.

“By comparing the results in quinquennial periods in these two thousand cases, it appears, that in the earliest period under twenty years, the males were more numerous than the females, and the mortality was greater by 13 per cent. amongst the males; the recoveries more (54 per cent.) among the females. In the next fifteen years, from 20 to 35 years, the females were more numerous and the recoveries were more, but the deaths continue to be more among the males. In the following six periods, from 35 to 70 years, the males were more numerous than the females, and the recoveries and the deaths were also more numerous than among the

females. From 70 to 75 the females were more numerous and the mortality was much greater amongst them, the recoveries being greater amongst the males at that period. In the two following periods the males were again more numerous, and the mortality was greater amongst them. For the whole period the recoveries amounted, in the males, to 35·8 per cent., in the females to 38·8 per cent.; the cases relieved, in the males to 7·4 per cent., in the females to 9·2 per cent.; not improved, in the males to 5·2, in the females to 3·9 per cent.; the mortality in the males to 32·4, in the females to 25·8 per cent.; remaining, 19·2 males and 22·3 per cent. females. The recoveries were 3 per cent. greater in the females than the males, and the mortality $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. greater in the males than the females. Authors state that insanity is, generally speaking, more curable in *women* than *men*. The most favorable *age* for recovery is between the twentieth and thirtieth year, but few recover after the fiftieth year. Esquirol states that of 209 recoveries at Charenton, the greatest number of cases were from the twenty-fifth to the thirty-fifth year. Recoveries diminish progressively from the forty-fifth year. The diminution is more abrupt in females and more gradual in males. Twenty men recovered after the fiftieth year, and four out of twelve lunatics above seventy; so that advanced age does not preclude hope."—*Dr. Boyd. 'Fifteenth Annual Report of the Somerset Lunatic Asylum, 1862.'*

St. Luke's Hospital as a Middle-class Asylum.

"The increased space of ground on the male side, which, we believe, is about to be rented of the authorities of St. Luke's parish, will afford greater opportunities for the recreation and exercise of the patients.

"Four new windows have been ordered for the male and female wings, to be placed in the room of the heavy wooden framed ones now existing. We hope, as soon as the funds will allow, that this commencement will lead to a similar improvement extending over the entire frontage of the hospital; as much unnecessary prejudice still exists in the minds of the public, owing to an absence of cheerfulness in the external structure of the building.

"Since our last report the galleries, wings, ball room, and some other parts of the hospital, have been thoroughly renovated, by whitewashing and repapering; new carpets have been laid down in two of the female galleries.

"Upon reviewing the events of the past year, we are happy to find, that the improvements which have been made in promoting the comforts of the patients, and thus facilitating curative results, have