

*The Report of the Northampton General Lunatic Asylum,*

Contains a statement that women nurses are employed in the men's infirmaries. Mr. Ley of Oxford, we think, was the first to introduce female nurses into his men's wards, though, even before him, we believe that we ourselves had female night-nurses in the men's wards. The practice of introducing female influence on the men's side seems to be in every way commendable, though we are inclined to think that women should not be substituted for men attendants, but be additional helps. Dr. Wing says, "Female influence is about to be brought to bear in another way in the establishment, and in this I am glad to have the sanction of the Commissioners in Lunacy, women having been engaged to nurse the very aged, the helpless, and the sick men. Nursing is the natural province of woman; her superior delicacy and tact are universally acknowledged, and in all our civil hospitals and infirmaries, as well as in many of the military ones also, females are employed to attend the men. A few lunatic asylums have followed the example, with which it is a pleasure to number our own."

*Report of the Lunatic Asylum for the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire.*

This is always interesting in a financial point of view, for Mr. Hill's reputation as an economist is well known. The accounts, however, are not so clear as could be wished; for instance, although the sum of £693 14s. 9d. has been received for the maintenance of private patients, and the sum of £1816 13s. 1d. has been received for the maintenance of out county patients, it is nowhere stated how much has been charged for the maintenance of each of these patients, and how much in excess of the charge made for paupers chargeable to parishes in the county.

Whatever this excess may be, it would appear that it has been appropriated to the reduction of the maintenance rate, so that Mr. Hill has been able to make so small a charge as 7s. 7d. per week for the county patients, by appropriating this profit on the private and out county patients. There appears no other manner of getting at the cost of each patient in the asylum, except by taking the whole sum of payments (minus the payments made on behalf of the county for additions to the asylum) and dividing this sum by the whole number of patients. The payments were £10,962, and the daily average number of patients 485, and from these data it would appear that the weekly cost of maintenance for each patient in the asylum is 8s. 8½d. We observe that the chairman comments upon the overcrowded state of the asylum, and the early necessity which will arise to apply to quarter session for grants of money to increase the accommodation. Mr. Hill, however, who has private patients in the asylum, who pay nearly £700 a year, expresses the opinion that fuller and