

during the past year yet unrecorded, and that proportion will swell the returns of future years; but this unknown quantity is in all probability comparatively small.

In the Annual Report of the Worcester Asylum, Dr. Sherlock gives a table, showing the number of patients who were received from the different unions of the county; from which it appears that the nearer the union is to the asylum the greater is the proportion of patients received. As the distance from the asylum is increased, the proportion of patients admitted, compared with the population, is very much diminished. It is not that proximity to the asylum increases madness, but that it makes it easier to send patients to it. The same result has been observed in other counties, and Dr. Sherlock concludes from it that even yet we have no certain data on which to base calculations with regard to the frequency of occurrence of insanity in the population and the actual number of insane poor existing.

Sex and Insanity.

In the same Report Dr. Brushfield makes some remarks on the relative proportion of insane men to insane women in the county of Surrey. According to the returns of the last census (1871) of England and Wales, for each 1,000 males of the whole population there were 1,056 females. In Surrey the proportion of females was 1.115, being 65 beyond the average. Taking the *insane* of all classes in England and Wales on January 1st, 1871, the proportion of males to females was as 1,000 to 1,182; but in the pauper class it was as 1,000 to 1,242. In the county of Surrey on the 1st January, 1872, the proportion was 1,000 to 1,422, or nearly 2 to 3—a great disparity between the sexes. But Dr. Brushfield does not believe that these figures indicate that women are more liable to insanity than men; on the contrary, he believes the liability to be greater in men:—

Although the registered number of female pauper lunatics always exceeds that of the males, it is not to be concluded that, therefore, they are more liable to attacks of insanity than the latter. There are no means of ascertaining the number of *new* cases retained in work-houses or remaining with friends; but with respect to asylum admissions, the number of males exceeds that of the females: this, and

the fact that in the general population the latter sex far out-numbers the former, demonstrate that the actual liability of the males to mental impairment is far greater than that of the females.

The one great cause of the accumulation of female patients in asylums is the much greater mortality among men. Thus it appears from the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy that notwithstanding that 68 more men than women were admitted into asylums in the year 1870, and that 226 more women than men were discharged during the year, the mortality of the men was so much greater that at the end of the year there remained of the admissions 130 more females than males. The number of deaths among men exceeded that among women by 424.

Feigned Insanity.

In the Annual Report of the City of London Asylum, Dr. Jepson mentions a case which proves, at any rate, that there are worse places in the world than county asylums, in the opinion of one who had some experience of life in them:—

One male patient was discharged as not insane; he was admitted for the first time in February, 1871, with, apparently, delusions and considerable maniacal excitement, which, however, soon disappeared, and after a residence of four months he was discharged recovered. Shortly after he left, the Annual Report of the Asylum for the County of Kent was received, in which Dr. Kirkman so graphically described a man lately under his care who had proved to be an impostor, that there could be little doubt that the patient just discharged was one and the same individual. He was, three months afterwards, again admitted, having been found wandering and taken by the police to the union. Dr. Kirkman was at once communicated with, and he visited the patient here, identifying him as the patient mentioned in his report. Upon these facts being laid before the Committee of Visitors, together with a certificate that the patient was not insane, they immediately ordered his discharge, and the circumstances were specially reported to the Commissioners in Lunacy, who suggested that steps should be taken to endeavour to punish the impostor; their letter, however, was not received until after he had left the Asylum. The man was admitted here under the name of George Hatton; at Barming Heath he was known as George Griffiths, alias George Hattum; and in the year 1861 he was in the Hanwell Asylum with a different name—Watkins—or some similar one, to your Medical Superintendent's personal