

made the most profound impression upon it. It was not to be expected that our own superintendents of asylums, saturated with a vicious spirit of routine, which they unhappily term experience, would at once acknowledge the value of a plan so antagonistic to their own interests and to our own asylum practice, which they have been led to imagine as perfection itself; but in the discussions that are continually taking place on the advisability of a further extension of the non-restraint system, Gheel is continually cropping up like a ghost that cannot be laid."

We must close these extracts with one more passage, in which the writer, after discussing the reasons of the objections, and the obstacles to the adoption of more freedom in the treatment of the insane, says :—

"Hence the strange and futile objections that we see daily urged against a greater freedom in the treatment of the lunatic; but that a sweeping change in that direction is one of the inevitable reforms we feel blowing towards us in the breath of every angry discussion among practical psychologists in this matter, is but too obvious. As we see wing after wing spreading, and story after story ascending, in every asylum throughout the country, we are reminded of the overgrown monastic system, which entangled so many interests and seemed so powerful that it could defy all change, but for that very reason toppled and fell by its own weight never to be renewed. Asylum life may not come to so sudden an end, but the longer its present unnatural and oppressive system, as regards the greater number of its inmates, is maintained, the greater will be the revolution when at last it arrives."

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### PART III.—PSYCHOLOGICAL RETROSPECT.

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*The Editor regrets much that he is compelled to defer a Report on American Psychological Medicine and other valuable material until the next number.*