

admission, was found to have several bruises on various parts of his body, and shortly afterwards was discovered to be suffering from fractured ribs, evidently the result of violence previous to his admission into the asylum. Dr. Harper may congratulate himself that this injury was detected immediately *on admission*, and shows how wise was the recent recommendation of the Commissioners in Lunacy, that each patient should be minutely examined by a responsible person, directly on admission into an asylum.

*Fifth Annual Report of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Lunatic Asylum.* T. S. CLOUSTON, Esq., M.D., Medical Superintendent.

THIS asylum contained at the end of last year 278 patients, viz. 159 males and 119 females; and the committee report that the state and condition of the asylum is most satisfactory; that a new west wing having been completed, the whole of the lunatics chargeable to the two counties, for whom it was necessary to provide accommodation, and who were in a fit state to be removed, have been now brought to Garlands, and there is still room to receive forty-six additional patients there. This new block contains accommodation for 100 women, and Dr. Clouston thus writes of it:

"It is," he says, "a narrow building, with plenty of windows and no corridors, and therefore the rooms are light and airy. Every room in it has a through ventilation, both by means of the windows, and ventilators near the roof and floor that can be opened or shut, so that it is thoroughly well ventilated, without, I hope, being too cold. In the evening, when the gas is lighted, ventilation is provided for by openings above each gas-burner in the ceiling, so that the bad air from the gas is carried away, and a constant upward current created. There is no other system of ventilation, and no system of heating but by open fireplaces. The water closets, bath rooms, and lavatories, are all placed in a special offshoot connected with the main building by a narrow neck with windows on both sides of it, so that any smells are cut off from entering the day rooms or sleeping rooms by a cross current of air. All the sleeping accommodation is in the form of associated dormitories, except six single rooms to which noisy patients may be removed.

"The infirmary for twenty patients will be a great advantage to the institution. All the furniture except the chairs has been made here. In that way its strength and soundness is secured. All the linen has been made up by the women, and the mattresses were made on the premises. In this way, doubtless, some saving of cost has been effected, but, what is of more importance, sound, durable articles have been got without any trouble with contractors."

It will be in the memory of most our readers that in former numbers the difficulties experienced at the Cumberland and Westmoreland Asylum respecting the utilisation of the sewerage and the severe epidemic of dysentery from which the inmates suffered were detailed and discussed. The following may be added as an appendix:

"The general health of the patients has been on the whole very good. The only exceptions were two or three slight outbreaks of diarrhoea among a few of the patients, accompanied in two or three cases by dysenteric symptoms. The cause, I have no doubt, was sewage emanations. McDougall's system of deodorization of the sewage by carbolic acid I cannot pronounce a complete success. It is true it was subjected to perhaps too severe a test. The sewage was run on to undrained land with a clay subsoil. It could not percolate down through the soil, and however completely the sewage was deodorized at first, yet it will necessarily decompose and give off injurious gases, except the soil absorbs and transforms it. I never could detect any offensive smell from the sewage when first run on to the land, but since it has been run off in a covered drain we have had no more diarrhoea. The field over which it is to run is not yet levelled and drained, and until that is done we shall try no more experiments with it."

This matter of the utilisation of the sewage is one of such great importance, that we feel no apology is necessary for again declaring how different is the experience at Hayward's Heath to that of Dr. Clouston. There the whole sewage from the asylum has been run on to the land directly in front of the asylum for the last seven years, and without the slightest ill effects; and latterly it has been run directly from the drains on to the land, without the intervention of any tanks to collect the solid matter. The soil is the stiff Wealden clay. The fields are all well drained, and the sewage is deodorised with carbolic acid and lime.

*Eighteenth Annual Report of the North Wales County Lunatic Asylum, Denbigh.* GEORGE TURNER JONES, L.R.C.P. Edin., Medical Superintendent.

At the time the report was written there were in this asylum 372 patients—183 males and 189 females. The institution seems to have been fortunate in donations this year, having received a large store of valuable prints, the gift of Messrs. Colnaghi, Messrs. Graves, and Messrs. Hogarth; but, more valuable still, Mrs. Mesham, a lady residing in the neighbourhood of the asylum, has presented fourteen acres of freehold land, in perpetuity, for the uses of the institution. The other matters in this report are of but local interest.

*Twenty-first Annual Report of the Devon Lunatic Asylum.* G. SYMES SAUNDERS, Esq., M.B. Lond., Medical Superintendent.

THERE are 254 males and 289 females, making a total of 643, now in the asylum at Exminster. These numbers include the patients chargeable to the borough of Plymouth, who have been in this asylum since its opening; and a contract has been entered into to retain them for a further term of ten years.