

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

been equal to those of former years. We feel a special interest in alluding to these improvements, because they render the hospital more suitable for a middle class of patients, who are received, under the new regulation, upon payment of one guinea per week towards their maintenance. The number resident of this class is now thirty-seven, as compared with thirty at the end of last year, thus showing a tendency to increase; and we think it can only be for the want of a more extended publicity that the numbers applying for admission under this rule have not been much larger."—'*Report of the Physicians and Medical Superintendent for the year 1862.*'

Result of Improvements at the Birmingham Asylum.

"If the architect who planned the asylum could see it in its present state, he would be vastly astonished at the changes which have taken place, at the improvements which have been effected throughout the building, and in the arrangement of the grounds. The new day-rooms especially, which are twelve in number, contrast most favorably with the old ones, all of which were not only much too small, but, for the most part, were placed in the worst position that could be found. The new ones, on the contrary, are spacious, well-lighted, and all are so situated as to command the best and most cheerful prospect which the neighbourhood affords. Very little now requires to be done to make the establishment complete and efficient in every department. The walls both of the old and new parts are being coated with paper or paint, in lieu of whitewash—a work which is drawing towards its conclusion, and additional articles of good furniture, both useful and ornamental, are being introduced into the various corridors and day-rooms.

"These changes have had a well-marked beneficial influence upon the behaviour of the patients. There is now ample space for them to assemble in groups according to their respective tastes and inclinations. There is also room for an excited and restless patient to execute his rapid and eccentric movements without coming in contact with others. Hence unpleasant collisions are avoided and general tranquillity preserved. In my last report it was said that the better an asylum is furnished the better will the patients behave. That opinion has been well borne out by the experience of the past year; for as the house has advanced in cheerfulness of appearance and in comfort, the conduct of the patients has improved. It is true that a patient may now and then, under the influence of some delusion, tear his clothes, or an excited patient in a tempest of passion may thrust his fist through a window; but such occurrences are by no means frequent. In so large an establishment there must necessarily be a certain amount of accidental breakage, but it is not relatively