

ally employs words that most writers of good English would be slow to use. In conclusion, we may say that the volume is both a pleasant and a useful one; and we commend it to the attention of our readers.

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*Only a Twelvemonth; or, The County Asylum.* Marcus Ward and Co., 1882.

This is a sensational story, purporting to be the actual history, veiled in fiction, of a young lady engaged to be married to a gentleman who, having gone to Ceylon, was incorrectly reported to be dead. Out of health from several causes, Hilda Moran was stunned by the news of her lover's death, and being regarded as insane by the family doctor and the superintendent of a neighbouring asylum, she was sent under her father's order and the certificates of these medical men to the pauper asylum of an adjacent county. Why she was sent to a county asylum does not appear; and the writer does not seem to be aware that as she was a private patient, two certificates would have been required. Anyway, however, no charge is made of illegal incarceration in the asylum. The charge is twofold: first, that she was not insane on admission, and secondly that she was neglected by the medical superintendent, and inhumanly treated by the attendants. The effect of the book, so far as it has any effect at all, is to bring county asylums into disrepute, and is therefore mischievous in its tendency and unjust. The writer alleges in the preface that the story is founded on actual events, and that she has communicated the name of the asylum to the publishers. This, of course, raises a question of fact. Is there a county asylum where the superintendent is fonder of leaving the asylum to engage in hunting, &c., than in attending to his patients, who are consigned to the charge of brutal keepers? If there be, the former patient is bound to expose the management of the institution to the Lunacy Commissioners and the Visiting Justices. If it be said that the testimony of a lunatic will not be believed, we reply that in the present instance, the main charge, that made against the superintendent—notorious negligence of his most ordinary duties—can be substantiated or rebutted, without the evidence of patients.