

the winds. It sometimes is quite painless, there is often little or no purging, but the sufferer is seized with violent spasms in the stomach, which increase in intensity till collapse is established, and death then rapidly follows, attended with but little exhibition of agony. There can be no reason for the illness of our men, so far as the commissariat supplies are concerned. The ration is as follows, daily: 1½ lb. of meat, beef or mutton; 1½ lb. of bread, or 1 lb. of biscuit if the bread is bad or is not ready; 1 oz. of coffee, 1½ oz. of sugar, 2 oz. of rice, and half a gill of rum. I doubt if any army ever received from its country half so good an allowance regularly as our men in Turkey do."

The treatment of cholera by castor oil, which is reported in the *Times* of the 9th September as having been successful in twelve out of fifteen cases, in King's College Hospital, proves nothing, inasmuch as it is not shown that those were cases of malignant cholera.

A medical friend in London mentions, in a note dated 3rd September, "the cholera for the last three days has been indeed truly frightful, and no remedy seems to have any effect. In this small registry district sixty deaths were registered yesterday; in Poland street it has been fearfully bad. Broad street, Carnaby, Marshall, and Silver streets have been ravaged. The attacks are sudden, and in many cases almost immediately fatal. I have had one very severe case of forty hours' duration, and I believe the only one that has lasted so long. The people are panic-stricken; numbers die of fright."

Lunatic Economy and Farm Profits.

To the Editor of the Asylum Journal.

Sir,—Your judicious and manly article on "The Restraint System" as practised in two asylums of this kingdom will not fail to elicit admiration from every thoughtful and humane mind. The fault to which it points is likely to become universal, for it appeals to, and falls in with the "economic" views of guardians, magistrates, and ratepayers. It is the principle of *cheapness* which more than any other upheld and is upholding the straight-waistcoat and the handcuff. Those who are well acquainted with the past history of lunatic asylums, know full well, that where one patient was restrained because of his personal violence, three or four were fastened in order to save the tearing of clothes, the breakage of windows, and such like mischief. If the amount of weekly charge be made the sole test of excellence, then farewell to the scientific labours of Esquirol, Pritchard, Boyd, yourself, and others, and to the humane and philosophic exertions of Pinel, Charlesworth, and Conolly. The fault specified by you is all the more to be dreaded, because it is an exceedingly unpopular thing to advocate even a legitimate expenditure, and because it comes to us in the plausible garb of scientific agriculture—a study which just now is attracting the attention and zeal of many of the best minds among the nobility and magistracy of this kingdom. It therefore requires great moral courage to uphold those just views which were enforced in your article of the past month. The opponents of your views will readily impute inefficiency

or indolence to those who espouse and act upon them: inefficiency in not being able to control the insane, to economise their labours, and to direct it to successful and profitable ends, or indolence in not caring to do so. Alas! where the saving of money is concerned, such imputations gain ready credence.

I believe the evil to which you referred has been fostered, if it has not arisen from the exaggerated statements which have been made as to the profits derived from the labour of lunatics. Architects and superintendents have placed highly colored facts before "The Building Committees of Asylums," and before the public; and have (unintentionally) misled them upon this important subject. To such an extent has this been carried by some enthusiastic minds, that I have seen a report from a provisional committee to the county magistracy, in which it is stated, that from information obtained from the active superintendent of an asylum, they are led to believe that their projected institution may be made almost self-supporting, and that several lunatics had been pointed out to them, "each of whose earnings were equal to that of two paid men;" so that according to this opinion, madness rather qualifies than disqualifies a man for active and profitable employment. The published reports of asylums have also ministered to this error by exaggerated statements of the profits derived from the labours of the insane, and thus the fault, which you have exposed so ably, has been indirectly supported even by hospitals which repudiate "the restraint system." The last report from the Colney Hatch Asylum abounds in such fallacies. Several high-sounding but delusive paragraphs have appeared in the newspaper press upon the profits achieved by that establishment, but one from the *Observer* will suffice to illustrate my statement.

INDUSTRIOUS LUNATICS.—The committee of visitors of the Pauper Lunatic Asylum, Colney Hatch, state that during the past year the estimated value of the labour of 246 male patients amounted to 1,338/8s 1½d. The actual profit realised from the farm, after debiting it with a rent of 30s an acre, for 57 acres, interest at 4 per cent. on a capital of 800l, and all other payments, is 866l."

Every practical farmer knows at a glance that this must be a fallacy. Even the enthusiastic Mechi, the pork-feeding Huxtable, the potatoe-planting Caird, or any other of the distinguished agricultural savants, who are startling the bucolic mind by their energy and skill, would pause over such a statement. But what would be their surprise to read from the Report itself, that the above result has been obtained at the deduction of 30s per acre, "from 57 acres of land which was lately a worn out brick-field, its natural soil removed, and the holes from which the brick-earth has been taken only partially filled up with a variety of unproductive soils obtained from the well-sinking and foundations of the building;" and more especially, when they read that "the draining" is not finished, but "progressing," and that still greater results are anticipated, when "the necessary pipes and apparatus have been laid down for the distribution of the liquid manure."—The author of this glowing Report informs us that the stock has been "estimated at a price which

he considers may at any time be realised; and the produce of the garden and farm at a fair market price." Where then is the fallacy, and upon what grounds do my statements of exaggerated profits rest? They can be detected and demonstrated from the pages of the report itself. Milk is valued at tenpence per gallon, and butter at thirteen pence per pound: it is demurred to as a fair market price. Hanwell is much nearer to the West End of London, where butter and milk fetch the highest prices, than Colney Hatch. The steward of Hanwell is a person of great ability, and of great experience, and no one can suspect him of undervaluing the produce of the estate. He however values milk at ninepence per gallon, and the butter at one shilling per pound. This "market price," upon 21,177 gallons and 3,815 lbs., strips the Colney Hatch profits of 108/17s 11d. The wages paid for labour are stated, in the "Farm and Garden Report," to have been 380/19s 11½d; but, by referring to another Table of the Report, containing an account of the officers and servants of the establishment, the following servants are found, whose wages appear fairly to belong to the Farm and Garden Account:—

| | |
|--|----------|
| 2 Garden Attendants | £104 0 0 |
| 1 Labourer (vegetable cleaner) | 39 0 0 |
| 1 Cowman | 46 16 0 |
| 1 Assistant ditto | 36 8 0 |
| 1 Farm Labourer | 36 8 0 |
| 3 ditto | 93 12 0 |
| 3 Gardeners | 130 0 0 |
| 2 Carters | 78 0 0 |
| | £564 4 0 |

In order to enable the steward to perform his many varied duties, two assistants are kept at a combined cost of 100l. If half of this sum be debited to the farm which is a very moderate calculation, the following will be the difference between the wages which were paid, and those put forth when giving "the actual profit realised from the farm."

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Servants | 564 4 0 |
| Steward's Assistant | 50 0 0 |
| | 614 4 0 |

Wages reported against the farm 380 19 11½

Less for "profits" 233 4 0½

There is no need to pursue the analysis further: the two items of price in milk and butter, and the difference of the wages reduce the imaginary profit nearly one half; but it may be added that Mr. Stephens, in his standard work "The Book of the Farm," states that a cow that yields half a pound of butter a day throughout the year, and gives 300 gallons of skimmed milk is a good one," vol. 2, p. 291—making the value of her annual produce 12/17s, exclusive of manure. But here each cow, supposing seventeen to be kept, is made to produce upwards of sixty-three pounds sterling worth of milk and butter, the aggregate of the dairy being 1080/11s? You, Sir, live in a land proverbial for its cream, but have you or any of your neighbours seventeen cows that can parallel the above? Seventeen cows that shall produce 3,815 lbs. of butter annually, beside 21,127 gallons of milk, so rich in cream as to

realise, "at a fair market price," tenpence per gallon? Such splendid results, such "actual profits," may perhaps be obtained in Cockneyland, where the "Cow with the Iron Tail" performs such wonders, but are worked for and sighed for in vain by

A COUNTRY SUPERINTENDENT.

July 15, 1854.

Lettsoman Lectures on Insanity, by FORBES WINSLOW, M.D., D.C.L., late President of the Medical Society of London, &c. London: Churchill. 8vo., pp. 160.

These excellent lectures having already been published in the pages of the *Lancet* and those of the *Psychological Journal*, will probably be not unknown to most of our readers. We are glad to observe them published as a distinct work, since they will thus be more convenient for reference.

For the information of those of our readers who are not already familiar with them, we may mention that the first lecture is on *The Psychological Vocation of the Physician*. It contains an exordium on the most noble attributes of the physician, expressed in a manner which may truly be called eloquent. The author expresses very forcibly the necessity of physicians studying mental science, and also the *ars artium*, the science of logic; he dilates upon the necessity of inspiring patients with moral confidence, of encouraging hope, and the cheerful and pleasurable emotions, in the treatment of diseases strictly physical. He gives some curious instances of the power of the mind over the bodily functions. He treats most judiciously on the duties of the physician to patients suffering from mortal disease, as to the right mode and time of communicating the dread intelligence.

But the most interesting part of this lecture is that which treats of certain mental conditions which can scarcely be called insanity, but which are nearly allied to it; and which can not unfrequently be traced to abnormal conditions of the bodily functions. For instance, the conduct of tyrants, of Frederick the Great and Caligula; certain suicidal states; the seeing of spectres, &c. Throughout this lecture there is a spirit of fervent devotion, not less delightful than harmonious with the subjects treated on.

The second lecture is *On the Medical Treatment of Insanity*. The first portion of it is a defence of the medical treatment of insanity. The second is a sketch of that treatment. We entirely agree with Dr. Winslow in everything he has said respecting the necessity of medical treatment, and we think his arguments are equally just, useful, and well timed. Mental physicians have fallen into two opposite errors on this subject. Formerly it was thought that mental diseases, when curable at all, were curable by the aid of pharmaceutical means alone. Of late years the fallacy of this opinion has been recognized, and many physicians have fallen into the opposite extreme, in discarding the aid of medicine, and relying solely upon the moral treatment of the insane. Mental physicians differ widely on this point. In two lunatic asylums of adjoining counties last year one medical superintendent gave his patients *nine times as much physic* as the other, whose attention was more particularly taken