

sible for their proper treatment? Only a few days ago a lunatic murdered his brother in a Welsh county; and it was stated that the relieving officer had been urgently asked to remove the man previously, because he was not safe, but had refused. Certainly it seems very desirable that a regular system of supervision, not only of the insane in workhouses, but also of pauper lunatics in private houses, should be established. If that were done, it might then be well to allow those patients who are fit for cottage treatment to live out of the asylum under proper care; thus to permit them all the comfort and liberty which their state will admit of, and to relieve the over-crowded asylums.—*The Lancet*, July 2.

Illegal Detention of a Lunatic.

Mr. Henry Wilkins, a surgeon, residing at Ealing, surrendered to take his trial upon a charge of misdemeanour, for having undertaken the charge of a lunatic patient for profit, his establishment not being duly licensed for the reception of such patients. It will be remembered that on the morning of the 6th of August, a young lady named Eliza Mitton was found in the Edgeware Road by a police constable, who put some questions to her, the result of which appeared to be that he considered she was unable to take care of herself, and he conveyed her to the Marylebone workhouse, where she was seen by Mr. Fuller, the resident medical officer, and Dr. Randall, the physician of the establishment. They both came to the conclusion that the young lady was of unsound mind, and she was placed in the ward appropriated for the reception of such persons. On the same day the defendant claimed her as his patient, and it turned out that the young lady had been placed in his charge by her father, and that he received an allowance of £180 a year for taking care of her; and he took her away with him. Mr. Giffard and Mr. Poland conducted the prosecution, on behalf of the Commissioners of Lunacy; and Mr. Metcalfe appeared for the defendant. The defence was, that at the time the patient was sent to the defendant she was not insane, but merely excitable and nervous, and required change of air and attention.

Mr. Baron Pigott described the Act under which the proceedings were taken as a most sensible and humane Act, and one much called for. In his directions to the jury he said that it was shown that the house of Mr. Wilkins did not answer any of the conditions therein laid down, neither had Mr. Wilkins received any order or certificate from a duly qualified medical practitioner, nor had he of course complied with the Act, which requires that he should send to the Secretary of State a copy of such certificate. With respect to the fact of the patient not being of unsound mind at the time of her reception by the defendant, if that view were taken by the jury, the case

would, nevertheless, come within its provisions if it appeared that she subsequently became so, and was retained by the defendant for his emolument.

The jury, after a brief consultation, returned a general verdict of guilty, and the defendant was ordered to be bound in his own recognisance in £200 to appear on the first day of next term to receive judgment.—*Central Criminal Court. (Before Mr. Baron Pigott.) Sept. 21st.*

The Metropolitan Asylum at Melbourne.

We are glad to learn that progress is being made in respect to the new asylum, which is to be put up on high ground, not far from the site of the existing establishment, and in the neighbourhood of Kew, 320 acres. The plans selected will bear a general likeness to those of the Derby County Asylum, and the two branch asylums, at Beechworth and Ararat, will more or less resemble the metropolitan institution. Dr. Paley, with Mr. W. W. Wardell, the inspector-general of public works, and Dr. Barry, chairman of the Lunacy Commission, have lately selected the sites for the branch asylums, and the plans for their erection are well advanced. The new metropolitan asylum will take two years to complete; but as soon as a portion is put up it is proposed to carry thither some of the working patients, who will thus make room for new arrivals. That this may speedily take place must be the earnest wish of all.—*Melbourne Argus, July 8th, 1864.*

Publications Received, 1864.

(Continued from the 'Journal of Mental Science,' July, 1864.)

'Clinical Observations on Functional Nervous Disorders.' By C. Handfield Jones, M.B. Cantab., F.R.S., Physician to St. Mary's Hospital. John Churchill and Sons, New Burlington Street, pp. 385. *(Will be reviewed in our next number.)*

'Pathological and Practical Researches on the various forms of Paralysis.' By Edward Meryon, M.D., F.R.C.P., late Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital, pp. 215. John Churchill and Sons, New Burlington Street. *(Will be reviewed in our next number.)*

'Lectures on Epilepsy, Pain, Paralysis, and certain other Disorders of the Nervous System.' Delivered at the Royal College of Physicians in London. By Charles Bland Radcliffe, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to the Westminster Hospital, and to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, pp. 340. John Churchill and Sons, New Burlington Street. *(Was reviewed in our number for October, 1864.)*

'Suggestions on Hospital Nursing and Visiting: being an Address read at Trentham Parsonage, on Wednesday, May 24th, 1864.' By Dr. Arlidge, Physician to the North Staffordshire Infirmary, pamphlet, pp. 22.