

injury remaining undetected at the time of admission or for a lengthened period afterwards. Thirdly, the probability of the injury being laid to the charge of ill-treatment in the asylum. Fourthly, the crimination and recrimination produced amongst the officers of the asylum by such imputations on imperfect evidence. Fifthly, the great difficulty that will always exist in fixing the time at which an injury was inflicted by appearances observed at a long subsequent period.

I had hoped that the publication of that inquest and history would have been followed by the communication of other cases, of which I have the information that several have occurred, occasioning great contradiction of opinion between the medical officers, great anxiety to visitors on committees of enquiry, much unsatisfactory gossip and scandal, and excessive pain to the responsible officers of the asylums. I believe that your giving publicity in the *Journal* to such cases will be a relief to several excellent men who feel that they have been unjustly aspersed, and great assistance to others who may be placed in a similar position.

With this view I request the publication of the following case. William Faulkner had been in the asylum at Littlemore in 1851. He was a tailor, addicted to drink, had a very large family, lost his employment, became a teetotaler; had delirium tremens, and rapidly recovered under a regulated diet. Subsequently to his discharge he was often heard of as being much in want, having very little employment, a teetotaler but of very weak mind, interfering and intractable. He was readmitted to the asylum Dec. 5th, 1854; was then in a state of trembling delirium and generally paralysed; he thought he was in communication with the devil on all subjects. On examination on admission, it was noticed that he was able to inspire deeply. He died on the 28th day after his admission. On *post mortem* examination on reflecting the integuments of the ribs, a small abscess was cut into. It had not been indicated by any outward appearance. The pus was of a pinkish color. The situation of the abscess was between the separated ends of two ribs, the fifth and sixth, which had been broken at a quarter of an inch external to their junction with the cartilages. The ends of the bones would have been in opposition except that they were shortened about the eighth of an inch; so that the scalpel passed freely between the separated ends of the bones. The fractured ends were capped by the absorption of the cancellous structure. No provisional callus, or effort at union existed between the bones themselves. On cutting through the bones longitudinally, one was of a dark color and the blood in its texture was also of that character; it appeared in a state of incipient necrosis; no trace of any line of demarcation was observed; the other was of healthy color and the blood in it arterial, its granulating surface had a thin membranous covering, apparently the effort to form a cyst. The integument between the two bones was not discolored. On removing the sternum a layer of organised lymph of variable thickness was found adherent to the costal pleura, and to the lung by a band an inch and half long, and very firm. The layer of lymph on the pleura to which it was attached was a part of the sack of the

abscess. No appearance of the lungs having been inflamed existed at that spot.

I was absent from the asylum at the time of the decease of the patient. On my return on the day following I was told immediately that the attendants believed that the fracture did not occur in the asylum, and that there ought to be an inquest. The coroner was therefore informed of the circumstance and an inquest was held. It was attended by the wife of the deceased, the relieving officer, the master of the workhouse, and some of the inmates. It had transpired that he had, during the five days that he had been in the workhouse before he was sent to the asylum, been at first put to sleep with another man; and a charge was made that he had been kicked out of bed and ill-used by that man. The charge was denied and so clear an account given of the insane restlessness of the patient that the refutation was accepted. I said that though the fracture might be occasioned by a direct blow of the fist; that I could not give a sufficiently definite opinion of the time when it occurred to attempt to lead the jury; that as one process of healing had apparently failed, and a distinct second process appeared to have been established, I should think the period of the blow might be considerably distant; that it would have been attended with marks of which probably the wife would have been cognizant if it had occurred previously to his being taken into the workhouse. There would probably have been bruises, but certainly pain in that particular spot, at a precise period, and cough or a pressing of the hand on the spot which she would have observed. She replied that he had had such pain without cough for some months. She could not say when it occurred. He had then been liable to more disturbance than she could account for.

The jury asked was the fracture of the rib the cause of death. I replied that it was not. The jury thought that they had need to be satisfied with what had transpired.

The Hansell Asylum.

OBITUARY.—This institution has lately sustained a great loss by the death, in his 55th year, of Mr. Edward Clift, its well-known and much esteemed steward. He was not only eminently distinguished for his business habits in an office of great labour and responsibility, but, as a consequence of his peculiarly kind disposition, was one of the most important auxiliaries to the medical officers in fully carrying out and steadily maintaining what is generally known as the non-restraint system.

Mistrustful, at first, of a system involving many changes for which his previous experience had not prepared him, he was still faithful and diligent in providing every suggested substitute for restraints; and he was soon taught by his honest observation, and convinced by his thorough good sense, that mental influence was more powerful than shackles of leather and iron. Often, in after years, he would point to those strong dresses and devices, once necessary, even when coarser means of coercion were abandoned, as being but rarely required in the asylum. He soon perfectly comprehended that the mere disease of strait-

waiscoats, and handcuffs, and leg-locks, and restraints chairs, formed but a part of that comprehensive system; and that the substitution of innumerable comforts, all acting favourably on the bodies and minds of the insane, was required to make the change from the old system to the new efficient and complete. And, once convinced, he never afterward wavered.

Charged with all the business connected with the food, clothing, and lodging of one thousand patients, as well as with the farm and the stock, he was not only indefatigable, but, his exertions being animated by warm benevolence, he was prompt at every call, awake to every suggestion by which the general welfare of the patients, or the individual good and improvement of any one of them, could be promoted. His assent was on all such occasions given, not only willingly and readily, but cordially; and the result was, that from the physician-in-chief (so long as there was a physician-in-chief) to the humblest inmate of the asylum, there was no one by whom Mr. Clift was not respected and valued. If anything was complained of, he was always ready to consider the complaint; if any patient required, from sickness or from waywardness, especial attention and solace, he was ever prompt to administer it. The various trifling petitions of the patients—trifling to others, not to them—were good-humouredly attended to, when he passed through the wards; and, on all occasions of festivity, his presence gratified and animated those who knew that he really desired to make them happy.

The order prevailing in his peculiar department, and in that of the general housekeeping, in which he was ever so aided by Mrs. Clift that their united exertions appeared to be those of one heart and one mind, must have been noticed by hundreds of visitors in the course of the last ten years. The physician was always gratified to acknowledge their peculiarly valuable services; and invariably took his visitors from the wards, farm, and garden, to the store-room, the bake-house, and at the dinner hour, first to the kitchen, that they might behold what wholesome and abundant provisions, and how well and carefully prepared, were supplied to the pauper lunatics of Hanwell; and afterward, into the separate wards, to witness the order with which the dinners were distributed, the neatness of the table service, and the unmistakable gratitude of the crowd of insane paupers; all the details contributing to these general results being, as they well know, the work of the steward, in loyal and cheerful conformity to the wishes of the medical officers, and to the liberality of the committee of management.

It was an important part of Mr. Clift's duties to inspect the quality of the various stores and supplies necessary for so large a family as that contained under the roof of Hanwell, including latterly about 1800 persons. Those who know in what manner the competition for supplying such large establishments is carried on, best know to what temptations stewards are exposed; and these temptations were not withheld from Mr. Clift; whose honest and upright character, supported by every consideration that could animate a man of sincere and unaffected piety, was always proof against them.

There was another particular in which, at this time, those who superintend the employment of patients in lunatic asylums may usefully keep in mind the example of Mr. Clift. His duties in the asylum were commenced in the time of Sir Wm. Ellis, by whom the employment of the patients was justly considered very important. After Sir Wm. Ellis had retired, the introduction of the non-restraint system caused the occupation of the patients to be regarded more especially in a remedial point of view. Mr. Whelan, then the steward, and subsequently Mr. Clift, so regarded it; and the latter was remarkably successful in inducing several of the male patients, even from the refractory wards, to work on the farm under proper superintendance. In other asylums this kind of labour has, perhaps, been lately too much regarded as a source of profit; the remedial advantage appearing to be postponed to the financial. Of this great and cruel error Mr. Clift was never guilty; and, happily, we doubt not that his son, who has succeeded him at Hanwell, will equally remember that the insane are afflicted and feeble; that, whilst moderate labour invigorates them, they are unfit for severe and continuous exertion of body as much as of mind; and that a good steward can only be the real helper of the physician when he takes especial care that every thing appertaining to the food, clothing, occupation, exercise, and rest of the patients, becomes mainly conducive to the restoration of their bodily health. So only, will he really and materially aid the physician; who, on his part, is equally careful to remove and exclude every cause of mental irritation and excitement, in order that the brain, kept undisturbed, may regain composure, and be restored to healthy action.

Unless such views prevail in the breast of every officer in an asylum, the physician may rise early, and late take rest; but he does but disquiet himself in vain. Unless they are equally entertained by the governors or by the committee, county lunatic establishments must become merely monstrous workhouses. Such views were apparently always present to the mind of the good Mr. Clift.

A severe, and unexpected, and fatal illness has deprived Hanwell of his services, and the poor insane inmates of a most warm and tender hearted friend. But his example will not, it is to be hoped, be forgotten. —This brief memorial of a most worthy man is drawn by one to whom his labours and his virtues were well known; and whose deep anxiety for the preservation of a good system, still opposed or denounced by those who seem never to have given serious consideration to it, will only end when nothing in this world "can touch him further." C.

The late REV. DR. WARNEFORD.

OBITUARY.—The Rev. Samuel Wilson Warneford, LL.D., Patron of "The Warneford Asylum, near Oxford, for the reception, relief, and cure of the insane, from whatever county recommended." This great philanthropist died in his 92nd year, at his rectory, Bourton-on-the-Hill, on the 11th of January last. In the notices that have appeared of his munificence, the benefactions and endowments given to the above hospital for the insane, "in aid of poor patients from