

addition to the diet of the feeble and aged, was gradually and almost completely discontinued. In this change also, there can be no doubt, we made a decided advance in rational treatment. We effected no saving in money, because more than an equal expense was incurred in providing substitutes for these alcoholic extras in the form of milk and eggs, our expenditure for eggs alone being considerably over £100 per annum. Our average annual expenditure for wine and spirits, for the 11 years ending 1876, was £90, while our average number of patients was 255. For the last 11 years, with an average population of 460, our wine and spirit bill has averaged only £12 per annum. Comparing then our mortality for these two periods, we find that during the first period of 11 years our average annual mortality was 9·7 per cent.; and during the last 11 years it has been less than 8·1 per cent. I would not be understood to hold that this diminished mortality resulted entirely from our abstinence from alcohol, there were doubtless many other influences at work, but we may fairly claim that our patients have not suffered thereby. The disuse of alcoholic stimulants is being gradually carried out in asylums in general. In 1876 the average cost per head for 'wine, spirits, and porter' was 6s. 6d.; in 1886 we find it had been reduced year by year to a half of this amount."

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#### FEMALE PHYSICIANS AND THE STATE HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE IN THE UNITED STATES.

"It is well that reforms come slowly; in this way variations from recognized orthodox methods sometimes demonstrate that even radical changes in established customs may be wisely considered, perhaps even adopted.

The Legislature, "for the better regulation and treatment of female insane in the asylums and hospitals of the commonwealth," by Act of June 4, 1879, provided, "that in all hospitals and asylums now built, or hereafter to be built, and under the control of the State, and in which male and female patients are received for treatment, the trustees of said asylums or hospitals may appoint a skilful female physician, who shall reside in such asylum or hospital, and who shall have the medical control of said female inmates, who shall report to the superintendent and also to the trustees." This law went into effect as to asylums and hospitals then built in one year after the passage of the Act.

The presence in the medical profession of well-educated, judicious, and experienced female practitioners has encouraged the managers of two of our State hospitals to entrust the treatment of their female insane to women.

The trustees of the State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg, "in the full conviction, and after mature consideration, that the comfort, welfare, and restoration to health of the female patients in this hospital would be promoted by the exercise of the power conferred upon them by this Act, on July 8, 1880, elected Margaret A. Cleaves, M.D., of Davenport, Iowa, to have the medical control of the patients."

The term for which Dr. Cleaves was elected having expired on August 31, 1883, when she declined to be a candidate for re-election, her position was filled by the appointment of her assistant, Dr. Jane K. Garver, who took charge September 1, and continues in office.

The trustees of the State Hospital for the Insane at Norristown, on the opening of that institution, February 18, 1880, adopted "the system of a division of the medical supervision by placing over the men a male resident physician, and over the women a female resident physician, making each responsible for, and requiring them to devote their whole time and single attention to, the care of their respective patients."

It is most satisfactory to note the uniform generous favour, the uninterrupted, cordial support which has been given to these two women physicians at the Harrisburg and Norristown hospitals, who have so fully shown their ability in

every respect to occupy such prominent position, with all the varied and arduous responsibilities, both executive and professional.

There ought to be no question in regard to the female insane in all our State institutions, in each of which there should be employed a female gynecologist. Recent advances in medical science demand that all examinations, which not infrequently are required to be performed upon the female insane, should be conducted by one of their own sex.

The advantages and opportunities now extended in the colleges and hospitals in which women are educated are so thorough and complete in didactic and clinical instruction, especially so in regard to diseases of women, that there need be no difficulty in securing competent medical graduates, who ought to have charge of this part of the medical work in all our State institutions. It will be simply a question of time until every hospital will gladly avail itself of such an addition to its staff. Various causes have too long prevented this, but the advance cannot be long withheld, the advantages are too overwhelmingly patent, the medical superintendents and the trustees of the hospitals are too progressive and enlightened not to avail themselves of this much-needed and now well-recognized reform.

If such radical changes have been introduced into private hospitals for the insane with advantage, how much more appropriate are they likely to be in institutions built, supported and watched over by the taxpayer. At the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane the entire gynecological work, medical and operative, has been for many years exclusively under the charge of the female practitioner. The late Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, ever mindful of the great responsibility of his position to the patients under his charge and to the public in general, promptly, when it was found that competent women could be secured to attend to the local maladies of his female patients, relinquished all such treatment into the hands of a graduate of the Women's Medical College. The same course has been pursued by Dr. John B. Chapin, since his election as superintendent and physician-in-chief in 1884, with entire satisfaction to him and to the board of management."

*Dr. Gerhard in Annual Report of the Harrisburg Asylum, Penn., U.S.A.*

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#### ASSOCIATION EXAMINATIONS.

In our last number we gave the result of the examination for the Certificate of Efficiency in Psychological Medicine in England, Scotland, and Ireland, but the space at our command did not allow of our giving the written questions asked by the Examiners. We now supply them:—

ENGLAND.  
JULY 18, 1889.

*Examiners:*  
Dr. BLANDFORD and Dr. RAYNER.

#### PASS EXAMINATION.

1. Describe the various modes of feeding in the refusal of food by insane patients, and the diet you would prescribe. In what cases would you consider it necessary to feed immediately, and in what would you wait?
2. Describe the most common development of insanity occurring during lactation, and the treatment to be adopted in such cases.
3. Describe the physical symptoms in general paralysis of the insane.
4. Are hallucinations of sight and hearing symptoms of insanity? Do they occur in the same? Can you distinguish the one class from the other?