

girls are able to work the sewing machine, and can make beds with a little assistance, and help generally in the work of the Asylum.

"Last year, in the tailor's shop, were made: 128 coats, 209 waistcoats, and 214 pairs of trousers; while 1,142 coats, 684 waistcoats, and 2,261 pairs of trousers were repaired. In the shoemaker's shop were made: 146 pairs of boy's, and 334 pairs of girl's boots, and a very large quantity were repaired. In the school-room, besides the instruction imparted, 236 different articles were turned out.

"The estimated value of the boys' labour in the workshops and dormitories was, during the year, £148. The girls' labour in the dormitories, household work, sewing-room, school-room, &c., during the same time, was valued at £100.

"It is thus seen that the temporary asylum at Clapton fairly performed the work for which it was originated, and it is confidently expected that in the new Asylum much greater results will be obtained."

From the 1879 Report, we find that the number resident in the Asylum, January 1, 1879, was: 196 males, 143 females, total 339. Of 56 discharged since December, 1877, 30 had gone to other District Asylums, being over 16 years of age, and incapable of learning anything; 6 had been discharged at request of Guardians, improved, and 6 not improved; 4 had been transferred to County Asylums; 4 had recovered; 84 went to the Homerton Fever Hospital; while 2 had escaped, and 20 had died. The number of children actually attending school, January 1, 1879, was 174. As will be seen the numbers at the time of our subsequent visit were higher.

The daily cost per head during the last half year was ls. 11½d.

The Commissioners observe in their Report:—"Dr. Fletcher Beach continues to discharge with zeal and ability the office of Medical Superintendent."

D. H. T.

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#### RETIREMENT OF DR. LAUDER LINDSAY FROM THE PHYSICIAN-SUPERINTENDENCY OF THE MURRAY ROYAL ASYLUM, PERTH.

After twenty-five years of active service, Dr. Lauder Lindsay has retired. We regret to learn that it was the state of his health which made this step necessary. He has been one of our hardest workers, not only in the department of psychological medicine, but also in the fields of botany, and comparative psychology. His work on Lichens and his recent most exhaustive book on "Mind in the Lower Animals," are monuments of industrious research. Our department of medicine can scarcely afford to lose the few men in it who have made names in general science. The younger generation of our *confrères* need to look to their laurels, if they are to achieve such well-merited fame as Dr. Lindsay has done. To us it seems that those habits of steady systematic and self-denying industry, are not so common as they might be. The routine of official work is apt to distract the mind from the claims of science and original research. Dr. Lindsay takes into his retirement the best wishes of many of our readers for his health and happiness.

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#### FIRE IN THE LENZIE ASYLUM.

A fire which might have resulted in disastrous consequences, but which, owing to the successful measures adopted, was confined to the portion of the building in which it originated, occurred on the 16th October, at Woodville Asylum, about seven miles from Glasgow. The Asylum is one of the most recently erected in Scotland, having been opened about four years ago. The

building is in the Elizabethan style of architecture, and cost £167,000. It contains 500 beds, is 700 feet long, and 450 feet deep, covering six acres. Its most prominent feature is two handsome towers, which rise from the east and west sides of the central or administrative block, to a height of 150 feet, the upper 30 feet being of wood. On Thursday, 16th October, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the wood-work of the west tower was observed to be on fire, having been ignited by a spark from a neighbouring chimney. Every endeavour was made to quench the fire with buckets of water obtained from a large tank immediately below the burning woodwork. It was soon, however, evident that the woodwork of the tower was doomed, and that moreover the surrounding buildings were in great jeopardy. The Asylum Fire Brigade had been by this time called out, and directed their efforts to isolating the fire by guarding the roofs of the main buildings in the vicinity of the tower. In this they were successful, for although the roof several times caught fire, it was promptly extinguished. The roofs were kept safe by deluging with water the burning rafters and sparks which fell upon them. At half-past six the danger to the surrounding buildings was considered past, the wooden portion having subsided within the stonework of the tower, which now bore a striking resemblance to a huge smelting furnace. The doors leading from the bottom of the tower had been built up with turf. The Glasgow Fire Brigade arrived at about seven o'clock and speedily extinguished the fire within the tower.

The Asylum was fortunate in having a well trained fire brigade, which when fire did occur, proved of essential service. When the fire brigade was called out, all patients and attendants in the grounds, workshops, laundry, &c., were brought to their respective wards, those in the division next the burning tower being distributed amongst the others until the danger was past. There was really no excitement amongst the patients, and the order that prevailed was very striking. The ringing of the tea bell and the issuing of that meal at the usual hour, had a reassuring effect upon all. The patients were quietly put to bed at eight o'clock; those in the division next the tower, with a portion of their clothing on; and next day the routine of the asylum went on as usual.

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#### AFTER CARE OF CONVALESCENTS.

Another meeting of the Association for assisting insane convalescents (See Journal for Oct., 1879), was held on the 27th November. Lord Shaftesbury has kindly consented to become the Patron. A Committee of ladies was appointed, who enter heartily into the work. The question of providing a Distinct Home was discussed. It was decided not to proceed with this at present, but to be content with endeavouring to provide temporary homes in cottages and other houses, and finding suitable places for servants willing to go out to service.

In connection with this movement, we extract from the last Report of the New York City Lunatic Asylum (Blackwell's Island) the following paragraphs (by Dr. Strew), headed "Situations Procured for Patients":—

"In an Asylum of this kind there are many patients who after recovery find it difficult, or almost impossible, to procure employment. Mrs. George Riley has deeply interested herself in behalf of these, and through her efforts has succeeded in procuring situations for at least one dozen of these recovered patients, who are all doing well, and by their good behaviour rewarding her for the interest manifested in their behalf, and although no longer amenable to the rules and regulations of the Asylum, she continues to keep a watchful and supervising eye over them.

"It is to be hoped that many other friends of these unfortunate patients will be induced to follow the laudable example of this lady, and enlist in this good cause.