

in every regard, a young woman had lived for many years naked in a frightful cage, while her sister had been allowed to wander almost naked in the woods; another young woman had passed her life constantly chained to a big stone; a man was confined in a bare, windowless cell, which had been built expressly for him; others were found miserably neglected, naked, filthy, and half-starved. It is probable that those who were responsible for this cruel neglect did not err from any actual cruelty of disposition, but from the vulgar, unreasoning horror of the insane, and from an entire ignorance of what their condition demanded. But one great advantage of official inspection was, that it was official instruction; and so it has come to pass in Scotland that, in proportion as those having the care of single patients have been penetrated with better views of their acquirements, the means of their treatment has undergone a remarkable improvement, and now leaves little or nothing to be desired. It is a question, then, which may justly claim to be carefully weighed, whether the extension to England of a system which now works so well in Scotland can be advantageously made; or whether, on the other hand, there are special circumstances in the latter country which render its success there exceptional.

Whether it be thought desirable or not to supplement the present inadequate asylum system in England by placing harmless and incurable lunatics in private dwellings, there can be no manner of doubt of the necessity of a more regular and stringent inspection of single patients than is at present practised, or is indeed practicable with the existing staff of Commissioners. On the 1st of January, 1865, there were 212 single patients who had been certified according to the statute, and the number had increased to 227 on the 1st of January, 1866. Of these, 43 were Chancery patients, so that there remained only 184 patients whom it was necessary for the Commissioners to visit. To these, only 191 visits were made during the year; whence it follows that, with few exceptions, each certified patient was officially seen once in the year. Every one must admit this to be an entirely inadequate inspection. But this is not all: it is quite certain that numbers of insane persons are living as lodgers throughout the country without being legally certified; and though the Commissioners, when they accidentally discover such a case, endeavour to vindicate the law by prosecuting the offenders, yet they are unable, being already so fully occupied, to take proper steps for searching out these illegally placed insane patients, and for affording them the protection which they should rightly have. It needs not the occasional revelations of ill-treatment which occur and excite a painful sensation, to prove that many of the insane are still deprived of that protection to which, by their helpless state, they are peculiarly entitled.—*British Medical Journal*, January 12.

Medical Psychological Association.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION FOR 1867 WILL BE HELD IN LONDON, UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF DR. LOCKHART ROBERTSON, EARLY IN JULY.

COMMUNICATIONS, &c. &c., IN REFERENCE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE HONORARY SECRETARY (DR. HARRINGTON TUKE), 37, ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON, W.

Publications Received, 1867.

'Trousseau's Lectures on Clinical Medicine.' Delivered at the Hôtel-Dieu, Paris, by A. Trousseau, Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine, Paris; Physician to the Hôtel-Dieu; Member of the Imperial Academy
XIII.