

there is such a dislike is proved by the fact that notwithstanding all the benefits conferred by registered hospitals, so widely made known and patronized by Dr. Bucknill and others, these institutions as well as private asylums have not practically changed their respective numbers in the last fourteen or more years.

It will not be right to assume that the contrast, drawn by Dr. Bucknill between the payments made by the sane patient to a general practitioner, and those made on behalf of an "unwilling captive," applies only, as far as the latter is concerned, to private asylums. There are some public institutions which have an excess of income over expenditure that is really quite comfortable to look at. If to that is added the salary of the medical man, as it should be to make things equal, then we may take it that the "captive" has to pay pretty smartly in public as well as in other institutions. The truth is that the payments are entirely a matter for the friends, who are substituted in the contract for the incompetent patient. I think that as a rule these friends do not lose, when dealing with insanity, the national commercial instincts. They are very apt to see that they get a good deal for their money.

Dr. Bucknill has rightly said that it is impossible to discuss lunacy matters without reference to Lord Shaftesbury. I think that I can hardly do better than close this letter with this quotation from his lordship's utterances:—

(Q. 11,613): "I am decidedly against their being done away with by the prohibition of the law, and because, as I said before, I am certain that some licensed houses ought to exist. There are a great number of people who will prefer them for their relations. The treatment that you get in the licensed house, where it is well conducted, will always be more of the domestic character. I was saying that by the extension of the hospital system, that is of the public system, I believe that a great number of the inferior houses will be eliminated and got rid of, and the few that will survive would be very good." (Q. 11,614): "Are you of opinion that it would be prejudicial to advance in the treatment of mental disease to do away with licensed houses?"—"Most undoubtedly."

I am, your obedient servant,

Ticehurst, March, 1885.

H. HAYES NEWINGTON.

*To the Editors of the "JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE."*

GENTLEMEN,—In the January number of the "Journal of Mental Science" there is an able paper by Dr. S. Rutherford Macphail, entitled "Clinical Observations on the Blood of the Insane."

In it he makes the following statement (pages 488 and 489):—"I have been unable, in the literature to which I have had access, to find reference to any observations on the state of the blood in this disease" (General Paralysis).

Permit me to remark that on the 22nd of April, 1878, I read a paper "On the Histology of the Blood of the Insane" before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, an abstract of which I enclose from their proceedings.

Dr. Lauder Lindsay had preceded me in a paper on the same subject, so that I can lay claim to no original merit in having prosecuted these researches.

It is somewhat gratifying to me to find that both observers, one of whom was before and the other after me, have arrived at the same conclusions as myself.

Dr. Macphail's paper is more elaborate and better in every respect than mine, but I am sure he will agree with me that, having published a paper twelve years ago on this interesting pathological question, I could not well allow his statement, ignoring Dr. Lindsay's paper and my own, to remain unanswered.

Trusting you may find space for this letter and abstract in an early number of the Journal,

I am, yours, &c.,

HENRY SUTHERLAND.