

case to place patients of destructive habits, even for a limited period in seclusion, without clothing or bedding, although an ample supply of strong quilted rugs be, as you say, given. A patient placed as you describe, reminds me of Hogarth's picture of Old Bedlam in "The Rake's Progress." The authorities then allowed straw instead of strong quilted rugs.

This question which you now re-open, was brought before the profession by the Medical Superintendent of the male department of Colney Hatch, in a paper which he published in the "Journal of Mental Science" for April, 1867, "*On the treatment of a certain class of Destructive Patients.*" His views were, to my judgment, refuted in a paper by my colleague, Dr. S. W. D. Williams, in the July number of the same Journal, "*The non-restraint system in the treatment of a certain class of Destructive Patients.*"

Dr. Sheppard replied to this in the October number, "*Some further Observations in reply to Certain Strictures upon the treatment of a certain class of Destructive Patients,*" and he was again finally answered by Dr. Williams in the next number (January, 1868). This paper contained, also, extracts from various Continental and American Reviews, condemnatory of Dr. Sheppard's views.

I take the liberty of transmitting with this letter the numbers of the *Journal of Mental Science* containing these papers.

Dr. Sheppard's practice was also strongly censured by Professor Dr. Westphal in Germany, after his visit to England. It would, indeed, be difficult for me to convey to the Visitors of Colney Hatch, the extent of injury which the publication of Dr. Sheppard's paper inflicted on the progress of the non-restraint system on the continent, and I fear, from the tenour of your letter, that he still persists in his ill-advised course of treatment in these cases. I sincerely trust that the information which your circular will elicit, may induce the Visitors at Colney Hatch, entirely to discontinue the practice advocated by their Medical Superintendent.

II. With regard to the practice followed in this Asylum, in the treatment of a certain class of destructive patients, I would refer you to Dr. Williams's papers, already noticed, in which, I venture to think, the Visitors at Colney Hatch will find my plan of treatment clearly explained, with illustrative cases. Should any question arise thereon, I need scarcely say how gladly I shall furnish any further details.

As the Visitors at Colney Hatch appear desirous of learning the opinion of the Medical Profession on this question, I may perhaps be permitted to conclude this letter with a short paragraph which I translate from a paper I received in October last, from Professor Westphal, on the use of the hydrate of chloral. "The therapeutic value of this remedy (the hydrate of chloral), has been discovered exactly at the right moment, and enables us to give the last final blow to the practice of restraint in Germany. The adherents of that system have always brought forward cases of destructive mania, with attempts at injury, as those in which restraint is absolutely required. In these instances, the soothing sleep produced by this remedy will replace the restraint, and similar will be its results in the mania of General Paralysis attended with destructive violence."

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. LOCKHART ROBERTSON,

M.D., F.R.C.P.,

Medical Superintendent.

John S. Skaife, Esq.,
Clerk to the Visitors,
Colney Hatch Asylum.

Junius Brutus Booth v. John Wilkes Booth.

To the Editors of the Journal of Mental Science.

GENTLEMEN,

I notice a very strange mistake by Mons. Briere de Boismont, which is translated and repeated on page 412 of the October number of your Journal,

On my authority, Junius Brutus Booth, who died in 1852, is made the murderer of President Lincoln, in 1865. Whereas the truth is, President Lincoln (as we supposed all the world knew), was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a son of the distinguished actor, Junius Brutus Booth.

Will you, in justice to the memory of the father, who, though insane, we believe was a good as well as a great man, place this crime where it belongs—on the son—for whom even the excuse of insanity, we believe, has never yet been claimed.

Yours very truly,

A. O. KELLOGG.

State Asylum, Utica, New York, U.S.A.,

Oct. 13th, 1869.

Books, Pamphlets, &c., received for Review, 1869.

(Continued from *Journal of Mental Science*, October, 1869.)

The Literature and Curiosities of Dreams: a commonplace book concerning the Mystery of Dreams and Visions, &c. By Frank Seafield, M.A. New and revised Edition, complete in one vol., post 8vo. Lockwood and Co., 1869.

Will be reviewed in our next number (April, 1870).

The Pathology and Therapeutics of Mental Diseases. By J. L. C. Schroeder van der Kolk, Professor of Physiology in the University of Utrecht. Translated from the German. By James T. Rudall, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Melbourne Hospital, Victoria. John Churchill and Sons, New Burlington Street, 1869.

We reviewed this work on its appearance in Germany. See Journal of Mental Science, October, 1863. It is interesting to observe the presence in Melbourne of a student in Psychology, who has well performed a task, which in England we have omitted, of placing this last work of Professor Schroeder van der Kolk within reach of English readers.

A Physician's Problems. By Charles Elam, M.D., M.R.C.P. Contents: Natural Heritage—On Degenerations in Man—On Moral and Criminal Epidemics—Body v. Mind—Illusions and Hallucinations—On Somnambulism—Reverie and Abstraction. Crown 8vo. Macmillan and Co., London, 1869.

Will be reviewed in our next number (April, 1870).

Winter and Spring on the Shores of the Mediterranean: or, the Riviera, Mentone, Italy, Corsica, Sicily, Algeria, Spain, and Biarritz, as Winter Climates. By J. Henry Bennet, M.D. Fourth Edition, considerably enlarged, with Coloured Maps and Wood Engravings. John Churchill and Sons, New Burlington Street, 1869.

Valuable as a guide to those in search of health. It is, moreover, beautifully got up.

Strong and Free; or, First Steps towards Social Science. By the Author of "My Life, and what shall I do with it?" &c., &c. London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1869.

"The final cause of all science and all philosophy is the enrichment of human life; the quickening of its powers; the enlarging of its capacities; the making it in some respect or other mightier, fatter than before."—DR. MAGEE.

Will be reviewed in our next number (April, 1870).