

examining the books and accounts of Bethlehem Hospital.—*The Daily Telegraph*, November 27.

One of the Results of the Restraint System in France.

We commend the following paragraph which has been going the round of the English papers to the notice of M. Renaudin.*

A melancholy catastrophe has just taken place in the Aisne, where a great part of the Lunatic Asylum of Montreuil-sous-Laon has been destroyed by fire and six of its inmates burnt to death. The establishment was full of lunatics of both sexes. Among them was a young man about 25 years of age, who was usually kept in a separate cell and with a strait waistcoat on. On the day before the fire he was visited by some of his relatives, who requested the director to release him from that confinement, and as he then appeared more tranquil it was done. The following morning he by some means or other got possession of a chemical match, and at night set fire to his bed, which was soon burnt, and the fire afterwards caught the wood-work with which all the cells of the violent lunatics are lined, and next burnt through the ceiling to the roof above. Once getting vent, the flames rapidly extended right and left, and spread alarm throughout the place. The keepers and others then rushed to the different cells to get out the inmates, which was a work of great difficulty, as many of them were strapped down to their beds, and after they were set free they had to be carried out by main force. The task was at last accomplished, and the guardians and others were congratulating themselves that no lives had been lost, when, on making another round among the cells, they found that six of the women had rushed back unobserved into the flames, where they met a horrible death. As for the madman who had caused the catastrophe, he was afterwards found running about in the garden singing and appearing highly delighted with what he had done.

General Statistics of Asylums for the Insane.

In one of our former numbers (April 1863, page 149), we noticed Dr. A. Erlenmyer's synopsis and statistical account of the asylums of Europe.

We find now in a popular German journal called the 'Irren Freund' (April and May, 1863), a critique—by one of the editors, Dr. Brosius,—on Dr. A. Erlenmyer's statistical tables of Switzerland, which country Dr. Brosius visited a short time ago for this express purpose.

Dr. Brosius found in almost every paragraph of Dr. A. Erlenmyer's tables of Switzerland grave mistakes and errors.

It is a striking example how inaccurate and consequently useless such statistical labours finally prove to be.

We take this opportunity to inform our readers that similar reasons have induced Doctor Mundy to abstain from continuing the publication of the statistical tables which he began in the January number (1863), of this Journal.

* See 'Journal of Mental Science,' July, 1863, p. 296. M. Renaudin "On the English County Asylums for the Insane."