

although convalescent, are by no means mentally sane. When the physical health has been re-established, and the patient evinces a desire for home, or when he or she seems to be lapsing into a demented condition, I believe the proper course to pursue is to try the influence of a return to home. The result of my experience is that such cases have recovered much more rapidly and satisfactorily than others of the same class who have passed their term of convalescence in the Asylum. It may occasionally fail, but a greater degree of harm may be expected from too long, than from too short, detention.

"In conclusion, I beg to thank you most heartily for your undeviating and kindly support in the management of the Asylum, and trust that you see good reason for still maintaining the general principles on which it is conducted, viz., that its chief function is that of a *curative* hospital for a special class of nervous diseases, to which is superadded the care of chronic cases which cannot fitly be set at liberty; that, being a public establishment, it should exist under the eye of the public, and accordingly is open at all times to the inspection of those who take interest in the general subject of insanity or in particular cases; that the freest communication is permitted between friends and patients; and that the utmost degree of liberty is given to the inmates compatible with their own safety and that of the public."

OBITUARY.

CALEB WILLIAMS, M.D., F.R.C.S.

On the 5th inst., after an increased illness of a few days, died Dr. Caleb Williams, in the seventy-third year of his age, the oldest member of the medical profession in York. His early professional education was under Dr. Travis, of Scarborough, with whom he remained till he was twenty-one. He afterwards attended the schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's, in London, and spent a short time in those of Paris. At the age of twenty-five he commenced practice in York; in the same year he was chosen as visiting medical officer to the Friends' Retreat, where, assisted by the late Mr. Tuke, he was one of the earliest advocates of the non-restraint system, and more generally enlightened treatment of the insane. On the ground of declining health he resigned this appointment in April, 1871; after having filled it uninterruptedly nearly fifty years. In 1864 he succeeded Dr. Thomas Simpson as consulting physician to the York County Asylum. In 1832 the terrible epidemic of cholera broke out in York. In common with some of his fellow-practitioners, he was faithful to his trust in this severe visitation. For twenty years he occupied the chair of *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics* in the York School of Medicine. This post he resigned in 1858. The school has since been closed. In addition to his connexion with two institutions, already mentioned, Dr. Wil-

liams was visiting medical officer to two private asylums in the neighbourhood of York. His large experience in the treatment of the insane gave him a widespread reputation, and his aid was sought for from far and near by the friends of this unhappy class. Fifteen years ago Dr. Williams appeared as the advocate of a wider range of the plea of insanity in criminal cases than judges, or jurors, or public opinion were then prepared to admit. In 1856 he made known his opinions, the results of long and careful observation, in a work "On the Criminal Responsibility of the Insane." Recent events have shown that public opinion now adopts wiser and more humane views on this subject. Dr. Williams's course as a practitioner was one of constantly increasing reputation. His skill and judgment in his medical career, of which his success is some guarantee, was united with refinement, courtesy, and gentleness of manner, that made him a favourite with his patients and their friends.

On the 9th inst. his remains were deposited in a vault in the Friends' Cemetery, Heslington-road. The funeral was attended by many members of the medical profession, by many of his fellow-citizens, and his friends from far and near. The large company was addressed by Mr. Isaac Brown, of Kendal, a minister of the Gospel, and an intimate friend of the deceased, and who referred to the Christian course and the bright example of his departed friend.

Dr. Williams has left a son, Mr. Isaac Williams, as his successor, upon whom we sincerely trust the mantle of a beloved and much esteemed father will fall.—*The Lancet*, Nov. 18th.

Books Received.

1. A Manual of Anthropology, or Science of Man, based on Modern Research. By Charles Bray, author of "The Philosophy of Necessity," "Force and its Correlates," "The Education of the Feelings," &c. London: Longmans & Co. 1871.

(*In this work Mr. Bray has brought together, within a small compass, a vast amount of information concerning the wide range of subjects with which he deals. We hope, in our next number, to give a review of his book, which meanwhile we recommend to the attention of our readers.*)

2. Restorative Medicine. The Harveian Oration delivered at the Royal College of Physicians, London, on June 21, 1871. With two Sequels. By Thomas King Chambers, M.D. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea. 1871.

(*Dr. Chambers has printed and published his Harveian Oration in America, as an offering of love and affection. Considering that the subject of it is chiefly of English interest, we fear it will hardly prove so acceptable an offering as would have been one of Dr. Chambers's former works, all of which have been much appreciated in America.*)