

he had been locked up and deprived of the opportunity of pursuing his profession; that his career in that respect had been cut short; that he was therefore damaged, and had a right to reasonable compensation. Was the plaintiff in 1875, 1876, and 1877 a person of unsound mind? If he was not, then by their verdict they should make Mr. Williams pay damages. If he was, then their verdict should be for the defendant. He should add that his object at an early stage of the case in suggesting that the proceedings should be laid before the Government had nothing to do with the action of Mr. Williams. He had said so because he knew that there were eminent persons in Parliament who had their minds much attracted to the working of the Lunacy Laws, and it seemed to him that the action of the certifying physicians was well worthy of being brought under the notice of the Government, in order that they might consider whether any change of the law was necessary in view of proceedings which he could not but think were wrong in themselves, and ought to be prevented for the future. That, however had nothing to do with the issue in the case—namely, whether the plaintiff was at the dates he had named or any of them a dangerous lunatic. If they thought he was not, then they should find for him. If on the other hand, they should be of opinion that he was, then Mr. Williams, who in any case had had a most painful duty to perform, would be exonerated by their verdict from any further loss and unhappiness than that he had already been subjected to.

The jury, at 20 minutes past seven o'clock, retired. After an absence of an hour and 20 minutes, they returned, and said they found for the defendant.

The Foreman—The jury recommend with regard to lunacy certificates that each doctor be required to sign on separate papers, and not, as at present on the same paper. Also, we wish to record our opinion that the mode in which the certificates were given and the inquiries as to the certificates were carried on, on the part of the medical men, was very reprehensible and that the law requires alteration.

Lord COLERIDGE said that the recommendation of the jury would be forwarded to the proper quarter.—*The Times*, Nov. 14.

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#### DARENTH ASYLUM, NEAR DARTFORD, KENT.

We can speak from personal knowledge of the excellent manner in which this institution is carried on. Dr. Fletcher Beach is indefatigable in the discharge of his duties as Superintendent. Miss Stephens pursues her arduous task of teaching with unabated zeal. May it continue. The carefully kept record of the capacities of the children, showing what, if any, has been the advance in the various divisions of knowledge, is very creditable to her.

In this Journal, vol. xxiv., p. 129, is a notice of the first two Reports of the Clapton Asylum now removed to Darenth. Those who, like ourselves, have visited both institutions, will have been gratified by the change in the accommodation and the facilities for carrying on the work of the asylum. The foundation stone of the Darenth Metropolitan Asylum was laid on the 19th October, 1876, by Dr. Brewer, the Chairman of the Board; and the school buildings were opened December 7, 1878. The contracts, exclusive of cost of land, amounted to £76,329; the accommodation being for 500 children. At the same date the foundation stone of the Adult Asylum was laid by Dr. Brewer—to be completed in twenty-one months from January, 1879. The cost is to be £60,000, for six blocks, for the accommodation of 744 patients, in addition to 54 single rooms.

When we visited the school we found 157 boys and 93 girls under teaching, there being in the asylum altogether, 412. Of the 250, 135 were on whole, and

69 on half time, and 46 were taught only in the afternoon. Hours:—Two in the morning, two in the afternoon, two spent in manual performance, as scrubbing, &c. In addition to Miss Stephens there were three assistants and four school attendants who helped in teaching—total, 8. There were seven mixed classes with an average of 29 children in each class, 203 were present on the day of our visit. There is a change of class every half-hour. It is striking to see the attention caused by the stroke of the bell. Then there was the playing of the piano, and “March!” Teaching music by the Tonic Sol Fa system had been lately begun, and was regarded as important, from using the intellect as well as the sense of hearing. In testing colours we found that blue and red were most frequently recognised.

The work done in the schools, up to the time of removing to Darent, is thus described by Dr. Beach in a summary which he gave us on the occasion of our last visit:—

“During the 3½ years the Clapton Asylum was in operation, 625 patients were admitted, 130 discharged, and 106 died. Of those discharged, 5 boys and 3 girls were sent out ‘recovered,’ and are earning their livelihood; 8 boys and 3 girls were taken out by their friends, ‘much improved;’ while the remainder were either discharged at the request of the different Boards of Guardians, or were sent back to Leavesden and Caterham as unimprovable.

“The training of the children comprises a physical, moral, intellectual, and industrial education—physical, to improve the low organisation which they possess; intellectual and moral, to improve their minds, and instil proper feelings; industrial, in order that those who are capable of it may learn a means of livelihood, and may, together with those who are incapable of being trained to so high a standard, contribute towards their maintenance, and so lessen the expense as much as possible.

“The intellectual and industrial training go on side by side by means of the ‘half-time’ system. The more advanced boys work in the shops, &c., in the morning, and the schools in the afternoon, and *vice versa*. The girls in the dormitories, &c., in the morning, and the school in the afternoon.

“Of the 350 children in the Asylum at the time of this report, 285 attend school, where instruction is imparted by the teachers, according to the mental capacity of the patient. Those of low type are taught the form, colour, and size of objects, ideas of number being also imparted. Some are even incapable of learning such simple ideas, and have only to be amused. The higher classes are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, drawing, sewing, &c., the ‘objective’ system of teaching being the key-stone of the instruction.

“32 of the boys are taught tailoring, 32 shoe-making, 3 carpentering, 2 gardening, 1 engineering, 6 assist in the dining hall, and 24 work in the dormitories.

“20 of the girls work in the dormitories, 8 assist in household work, 2 in the laundry, 2 in the sewing room, and 3 in the detached infirmary.

“There is, in fact, the greatest difference between an untrained imbecile child and one who has received instruction. The former sits listless in a corner, seeing but not perceiving, and generally leading an animal existence; the latter takes an interest in the little world around him, and, as far as in him lies, does his best to make himself useful.”

The *practical results* may be summed up as follows, leaving out of consideration for the present those patients who have been discharged “recovered” and “much improved:”—

“All the boots and shoes, and nearly all the clothing of the boys, are made by the imbecile children. In the tailor’s shop there are five boys who are able to make a suit of clothes almost without assistance; while, in the shoemaker’s shop, there are two boys who can make a pair of boots with a little occasional help. All the boys are assisting in the work, or undergoing training. Two

girls are able to work the sewing machine, and can make beds with a little assistance, and help generally in the work of the Asylum.

"Last year, in the tailor's shop, were made: 128 coats, 209 waistcoats, and 214 pairs of trousers; while 1,142 coats, 684 waistcoats, and 2,261 pairs of trousers were repaired. In the shoemaker's shop were made: 146 pairs of boy's, and 334 pairs of girl's boots, and a very large quantity were repaired. In the school-room, besides the instruction imparted, 236 different articles were turned out.

"The estimated value of the boys' labour in the workshops and dormitories was, during the year, £148. The girls' labour in the dormitories, household work, sewing-room, school-room, &c., during the same time, was valued at £100.

"It is thus seen that the temporary asylum at Clapton fairly performed the work for which it was originated, and it is confidently expected that in the new Asylum much greater results will be obtained."

From the 1879 Report, we find that the number resident in the Asylum, January 1, 1879, was: 196 males, 143 females, total 339. Of 56 discharged since December, 1877, 30 had gone to other District Asylums, being over 16 years of age, and incapable of learning anything; 6 had been discharged at request of Guardians, improved, and 6 not improved; 4 had been transferred to County Asylums; 4 had recovered; 84 went to the Homerton Fever Hospital; while 2 had escaped, and 20 had died. The number of children actually attending school, January 1, 1879, was 174. As will be seen the numbers at the time of our subsequent visit were higher.

The daily cost per head during the last half year was ls. 11½d.

The Commissioners observe in their Report:—"Dr. Fletcher Beach continues to discharge with zeal and ability the office of Medical Superintendent."

D. H. T.

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#### RETIREMENT OF DR. LAUDER LINDSAY FROM THE PHYSICIAN-SUPERINTENDENCY OF THE MURRAY ROYAL ASYLUM, PERTH.

After twenty-five years of active service, Dr. Lauder Lindsay has retired. We regret to learn that it was the state of his health which made this step necessary. He has been one of our hardest workers, not only in the department of psychological medicine, but also in the fields of botany, and comparative psychology. His work on Lichens and his recent most exhaustive book on "Mind in the Lower Animals," are monuments of industrious research. Our department of medicine can scarcely afford to lose the few men in it who have made names in general science. The younger generation of our *confrères* need to look to their laurels, if they are to achieve such well-merited fame as Dr. Lindsay has done. To us it seems that those habits of steady systematic and self-denying industry, are not so common as they might be. The routine of official work is apt to distract the mind from the claims of science and original research. Dr. Lindsay takes into his retirement the best wishes of many of our readers for his health and happiness.

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#### FIRE IN THE LENZIE ASYLUM.

A fire which might have resulted in disastrous consequences, but which, owing to the successful measures adopted, was confined to the portion of the building in which it originated, occurred on the 16th October, at Woodville Asylum, about seven miles from Glasgow. The Asylum is one of the most recently erected in Scotland, having been opened about four years ago. The