

supervision is believed to have cured this evil; and we see no reason why what now works well in Scotland should not be introduced into this country. But, if lunatics are kept at home, one of the characteristics of the home which Englishmen prize—its privacy—must be surrendered.—*British Medical Journal*, December 22.

Increase of Insanity.

It need not excite surprise to read that the three large asylums for the county of Middlesex are full, and that extended accommodation for the insane poor is urgently required all over England. The subject is now under the serious consideration of the Commissioners in Lunacy, who will advise the Home Office. The question before them is not so simple as it may seem. A very general feeling has arisen that the system of building enormous and expensive asylums has been carried far enough, and that the lunatic and idiot poor may be better cared for, at less expense, in smaller buildings or in private dwellings. It must not be thought that insanity is increasing because more asylums are required. The improved modern treatment has done much to diminish the number of lunatics, who are not now in greater numerical proportion to the population than they were ten years ago.—*The Lancet*, December 15.

Circular by the Commissioners in Lunacy.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY,
19, WHITEHALL PLACE, S.W. ;
15th December, 1866.

SIR,—Referring to the enactments of the Legislature for the protection of lunatics against ill-treatment by attendants at lunatic asylums, registered hospitals, and licensed houses, I am directed to call the attention of the authorities at such institutions to the enclosed copy of a pernicious document which has lately been put in circulation. The Commissioners direct me, at the same time, to intimate that all statutory notices to them of dismissal of attendants should contain the full particulars of any ill-treatment assigned as the cause of such dismissal, inasmuch as, in the absence of those particulars, the notices have been found to be practically useless. I am also to remind you, that a list is kept at this office of all attendants dismissed for misconduct from asylums, registered hospitals, or licensed houses, and to suggest that more frequent reference thereto by medical superintendent and proprietors would be found useful.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHARLES PALMER PHILLIPS,
Secretary.

1, DEVONSHIRE PLACE, TURNHAM GREEN,
MIDDLESEX ;
November 29th, 1866.

TO ATTENDANTS.—A subscription has been opened on behalf of Henry Burton and Edwin Morgan, two attendants at the Surrey Lunatic Asylum, who are undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for violence to a patient in that establishment. Reports of the case will be found in the London papers, October 24th.