

to it from the Penitentiary, and as criminal lunatics from the Gaols.

It is truly a most discouraging reflection that, after the expenditure of the large sums required to complete the extensive Asylums at Toronto and Kingston, we should, at the end of four or five years, find ourselves just where we are now, looking round in vain for room to lodge the unhappy claimants for admission into our Asylums, and compelled by force of circumstances to allow many of these unfortunate creatures to linger in our Gaols until their cases have become hopeless.

What, then, is the cause of this choking up of our larger institutions for the insane? Whence comes it that we are compelled almost invariably to refuse admission to patients whose cases are recent and curable, and only open our doors to admit them when they have become imbecile or hopelessly incurable? Dr. Workman answers—"They (the insane) are denied early admission because we have no room for them, and we have no room for them because three-fourths or seven-eighths of our beds are held for life by persons who cannot recover." "*The retention of these incurables is the cause of this evil.*" In other words, by retaining our incurables permanently in our Asylums, we go on indefinitely multiplying the incurables outside. The problem, then, to be solved, is this: "How shall we reconcile the interests of the curable and the incurable insane?" To do justice to the former, we must see that our curative Asylums are open to receive them as soon as the necessary formalities required by law have been complied with. To do justice to the latter, we must see that even where their recovery is hopeless, and there is no longer any sufficient reason for permitting them to occupy room in the chief Asylums *to the exclusion of curable patients*, they are not turned adrift upon the world in their utterly helpless state without any provision being made for their shelter or protection. If, indeed, we were unhappily compelled to weigh the relative claims upon the state of the curable and incurable insane, and altogether to reject either one class or the other, there can be no doubt that the unfortunate incurables would be the sufferers. Society and the state may justify, even on the most selfish and economic grounds, the expenditure of public moneys in providing

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