

principles, they will prove eminently useful. If, however, they lose identification with the parent institution, I can see no reliable guarantee for their future humane and correct management, and I should apprehend, that in the course of years, they might retrograde into the condition which characterized establishments for the insane, before Asylum management had become a science.

Strong objections have been urged against the establishment of Asylums distinctively for incurable lunatics, chiefly on the ground that the recognition of insanity, in any form, as a malady beyond the reach of curative means, must eventually paralyze all persistent effort in the direction of mental restoration. It certainly accords with human experience, that men work reluctantly, or apathetically towards that which they believe to be unattainable. Kindness in the treatment of the insane, has become a universal law of modern Asylums, not because it has ever been the leading doctrine of Christianity, but because it has been proved to be the best curative appliance, and by far the most potent and easy mode of government. But sound practical kindness, in the management of the insane, is not the spontaneous growth of instinctive benevolence; there are multitudes in the world, whose hearts would do much good, if guided by clearer heads; and I have seen a few who have started with the best intentions and kindest dispositions, flag in their efforts, and become finally unfit for the position which their peculiar *softness* seemed to promise they would most appropriately fill. Kindness to the *insane* inmates of an Asylum, sometimes demands of those in command, the execution of much that is considered very unkind to the *sane* attendants. Small faults must be promptly dealt with, otherwise great ones will spring from the overlooking of them. Even an ill-natured attendant may be kind to a good and obliging