

of Quebec. The unfortunate victim obtained her release, and the account of a visit paid to the institution in which she was detained by Dr. Tuke has led to a much needed reform.

It may be safely said that serious abuses in any of the asylums for the insane in Ontario could hardly occur. The medical superintendents and those in charge have been appointed because of their special fitness for the duties they have to discharge. Drs. Clarke, Wallace, Bucke, Metcalf and Beaton are, by qualification, temperament and disposition, just the kind of men to whom such important trusts can confidently be committed. Competent inspectors make regular and thorough inquiry into the state of the various asylums. No serious wrong could be inflicted without being speedily discovered. The recently published Report of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities on the Asylums for the Insane contains much information that possesses a melancholy interest. It also details facts of a hopeful and encouraging kind.

The Report shows that in the four asylums of London, Hamilton, Toronto and Kingston, on the 30th September, 1884, the date to which the returns are brought, there were 2,671 patients, an increase of seventy-seven over those of last year. These were provided for as follows: Toronto Asylum, 703; London Asylum, 907; Kingston Asylum, 500; Hamilton Asylum, 561. In the Asylum for Idiots at Orillia, the number of inmates was 235. The number admitted to the asylums in the year was 508, being thirty-five more than in the year preceding. It cannot, however, be fairly inferred that this indicates an increase of insanity throughout the Province, though every institution is at present taxed to the utmost limit of its accommodation. Many are cared for by their friends at home and, unhappily, the common gaols have to be used as shelters for the insane, a state of things that calls for a speedy remedy. No fewer than seventy-six persons of unsound mind were accommodated in Provincial gaols, and in the Homewood Retreat at Guelph, a private institution, ten inmates are returned. In addition to these, there are applications for the reception of 202 patients into the various asylums.

Efforts are being made to secure additional accommodation for this unfortunate class. The cottage system, so highly thought of in England, has been attempted on a small scale at Toronto, London, Hamilton and Kingston. Should the experiment prove successful it will doubtless be extended. At the present Session of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, it was stated that additional accommodation must be provided in connection with the asylums for the imbecile and insane.

Of the 531 patients admitted during the year, 268 are returned as married, and 263 unmarried. As to nationality, they are ranged: Canadians, 317; English 73; Irish 68; Scotch, 40; United States, 11; other countries, or unknown, 22. According to religious professions they are classed: Church of England, 115; Roman Catholic, 107; Presbyterian, 121; Methodist, 112; other denominations, or unknown, 76.

As an evidence that the more humane and skilful treatment of those suffering from mental disease is certain to be attended with good results, the Inspector states in his report that the percentage of cures is steadily growing, the last year showing a specially gratifying increase. The percentage of cures to admissions is as follows: Toronto Asylum, 34.50; London Asylum, 30.00; Kingston Asylum, 33.03; and Hamilton Asylum, 58.62. The percentage of deaths, calculated from the numbers resident in the various institutions, is less than any year since 1879, being in Toronto, 6.14; London, 4.86; Kingston, 4.30; Hamilton, 4.11; and in the Idiot Asylum at Orillia, 4.06.

As to the causes of insanity, both predisposing and exciting, Dr. O'Reilly, in his report, cautions against regarding those given in the returns as accurate. It is difficult to arrive at anything like certainty on this point, as the facts are not generally narrated by skilled persons, are but imperfectly known, and because relatives not unfrequently conceal important facts, so that the data given in the returns on these particulars, cannot be regarded as reliable. The highest number is assigned to hereditary causes with others combined, being 147; as exciting causes, religious excitement and mental worry, have the same number, 31 assigned to each.

The average cost of the maintenance of each patient for the last year was \$133. The gross expenditure for the maintenance of the asylums for the same period was \$388,021.30. For the support of patients, \$48,

135.18, was received. A large number of the patients was employed in useful and productive work, resulting in a considerable addition to the resources of the various institutions, as well as being beneficial to the health and happiness of the inmates.

Much is being done to bring happiness and comfort into these retreats where the insane find shelter. Religious services are held regularly, ministers of the Gospel esteeming it a privilege to bring its consolations to the unfortunate. Church choirs generously provide musical entertainments for them, and their efforts are much appreciated.

We cannot close without noticing the fact that harshness and restraint are disappearing from the treatment of the insane with the best possible results, and, also, that in most of the institutions the use of alcoholic stimulants is being dispensed with. On both these points the testimony of Dr. Bucke, of the London Asylum, is emphatic.

Books and Magazines.

ELECTRA. Edited by Annie E. Wilson and Isabella M. Leyburn. (Louisville, Ky.: *Courier-Journal* Building.)—The contents of this magazine, specially adapted for home reading, are varied, pure, and good.

EVE'S DAUGHTERS, or Common Sense for Maid, Wife and Mother. By Marion Harland. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; Toronto: William Briggs.)—This is a plain, practical work, written by a true-hearted woman. In a becoming and proper spirit the authoress gives good counsel on a number of subjects of great practical importance to the wide constituency she addresses.

THE SHADOW OF THE HAND. By William A. Grey. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier; Toronto: Hart & Co.)—This is a volume of sermons by a rising Scottish divine. Mr. Grey is minister of the South Free Church, Elgin. The volume takes its title from the first sermon on "Seclusions," founded on the text "He hath covered me with the shadow of His hand." The discourses are clear and thoughtful expositions of divine truth. They breathe an elevated Christian spirit, and will be read with profit and delight.

OUTLINES OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION. Edited by George T. Ladd. (Boston: Ginn, Heath & Co.)—A short time ago, a brief notice of "Outlines of Metaphysics," from the dictated portions of Herman Lotze's Lectures, appeared in these columns. This is another volume of the same series, carefully edited by Professor Ladd, of Yale. Here we have a brief outline of that original thinker's teaching on religion. It is essentially German. It is to be regretted that in some very important respects it does not move in the same line with Scriptural teaching. Professor Lotze deals with the subjects now occupying the attention of all thoughtful men.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co; Toronto: Hart & Co.)—The issue for March of this admirable magazine is in no way behind any that has yet appeared. It opens with a paper on "H.M.S. *Bucchante* at the Antipodes." This paper is made up from extracts from the diaries of Princes Edward and George, written in a modest and interesting manner. Grant Allen writes on "Primroses and Cowslips" in a style worthy of his fame as a naturalist. "Casting in Bronze," by Geo. Simonds, and "Pilgrimages," by W. Minto, are both readable and instructive papers. In fiction the *Illustrated* is peculiarly attractive this month. Hugh Conway's story, "A Family Affair," is continued, and Bret Harte's much talked of "A Ship of '49," is begun. The illustrations are excellent, those accompanying "Primroses" specially so.

MEMOIRS OF REV. DAVID BRAINERD. Edited by J. M. Sherwood, D.D. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The original Memoirs of the Apostolic Brainerd were compiled from his diaries by Jonathan Edwards, and first published in 1749. A new edition containing Brainerd's journals was prepared by Dr. Dwight. It has been known for upwards of a century as a Christian classic. The volume before us is the latest edition just published. It is based on the work prepared by President Edwards, and afterwards enlarged by Dr. Dwight. The whole is carefully revised, some parts condensed

and re-written, with Notes, and Preface, and Introduction by the Editor, J. M. Sherwood, D.D., on The Life and Character of Brainerd, and a stirring Essay on Modern Missions by Dr. Arthur T. Pierson of Philadelphia.

THE THEOLOGY OF CHRIST. From His own Words. By Joseph P. Thompson, D.D., LL.D. With an introduction by William M. Taylor, D.D., LL.D. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—Dr. William M. Taylor writes a brief yet graceful introduction to this most valuable work by his predecessor in the Broadway Tabernacle. His commendation is in the highest terms, which a careful reading of the work will amply confirm. Dr. Taylor says: "In the 'Theology of Christ,' which we commend to Biblical readers, theological students and ministers of these days, we have one of the earliest, and still one of the best, specimens of Biblical Induction which has been produced in our language. He further says: 'The method of the book is excellent, the style is lucid; the spirit is reverent, and the result is satisfying. We commend it to all Biblical students, not only as a richly suggestive treatment of its subject, but also as an excellent specimen of that Scriptural Induction on which all true theology must rest. The work is neatly printed and published at a rate within the reach of all.'

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. New York: Funk & Wagnalls.)—*The Homiletic Review* for March, in point of vigour, freshness, and variety of treatment, is not a whit behind the first two numbers of the year. The opening paper by Principal Sir William Dawson, "The Relations of the Natural to the Spiritual," is sure to secure attention. Prof. George P. Fisher, of Yale College, presents an admirable and instructive paper, "The Modern Sermon." Dr. Palmer of New Orleans, sets forth the characteristics of the late Dr. Stuart Robinson as a preacher. Prof. Riddle, of Hartford, Conn., contributes an able paper to the Symposium on Romans. Dr. Ludlow's article, "The Poetical Imagery of the Book of Revelation," is the first of a series on the subject, which is sure to attract marked attention. The sermons are by such representative and distinguished preachers as Drs. John Hall, R. S. Storrs, Cuyler, MacArthur and Alexander MacLaren. The miscellaneous and editorial sections contain valuable contributions and are sure to interest the general reader.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE UTILITARIAN THEORY OF MORALS. By the Rev. F. R. Beattie, B.D., Ph. D. (Barnstaple: J. & J. Sutherland.)—It is a hopeful sign for the cause of sacred learning in Canada to see one of the younger ministers of our church, amid the duties of an arduous pastorate, devoting a portion of his time to such studies as this welcome volume represents. It is a treatise on the theory of morals. Dr. Beattie, after a brief introduction, referring to the development of ethical science, enters on a critical estimate of the Utilitarian theory of morals, finding its modern exponent in Hobbes, and culminating in the Positivism of our own time, as represented in the writings of Comte, J. S. Mill and Herbert Spencer. To the bald system of Utilitarianism Dr. Beattie refuses his assent, preferring the Intuitive theory of Morals, upheld by the illustrious men who constituted the Scottish School of Philosophy. The work is written in a clear and intelligible style. Its author thinks soundly on a profound subject, and has the faculty of making his meaning plain to the ordinary reader. It is a book that will be helpful to intelligent and enquiring minds.

DR. FEID has received the following donations for missions, viz: Bequest of H. for Home Mission, \$100, and for French Evangelization, \$100; W. P. James, Duquoin City, Michigan, per Rev. Dr. James, \$30 for Home Mission, and for Foreign Mission, \$30; Friend, for Augmentation and Missions in North-West, \$100.

The last of a series of socials of a very interesting character in connection with St. Andrew's Church, Pickering, was held last Thursday evening, at the residence of Mr. A. Mer Kay. It consisted of short addresses by prominent men of the place, and vocal and instrumental music, after which refreshments were partaken of, and a very enjoyable evening spent. Financially, numerically, and spiritually, as was shown at the recent congregational meeting, the congregation is prosperous. The various Schemes of the Church also are more liberally supported. The annual soiree recently held in connection with St. John's Church, Brougham, which is now permanently located in the village, was a grand success. The proceeds are being directed to the purchase of an organ for the Church.