

as finished when they had exhausted the kind of medication supposed to be most efficacious for the purpose. But in an age of active philanthropy and of great practical sagacity, the idea was not long in making its appearance, that something more is necessary to ensure the highest success, even to the medical treatment. The fact was finally recognized that so long as the patient is allowed to follow the bent of his own will, he is only fostering and strengthening the morbid process going on in the brain ; and it also became obvious that ordinary nurses in private families or in general hospitals are incompetent to exercise the kind of control which the case required. Seldom seeing the disease, they have little opportunity of acquiring skill in the practice of their duty ; and besides, even if it were otherwise, it could not be expected that persons of their capacity and culture could ever do more than follow, with more or less fidelity, the general directions of others. These directions the medical attendant could not furnish, because he knew comparatively little of the disease himself, and had given no special attention to the operations of the mind whether sane or insane. Visiting his patient at infrequent intervals, he could not provide for his frequently changing moods, nor be sure that his views were faithfully executed. Neither would the arrangements of an ordinary household admit of that kind of restriction which the insane usually require, and the only alternative was, either an unlimited indulgence of the patient in his caprices, or a degree of coercion and confinement which irritated his spirit and injured his health. Under the pressure of these inconveniences and hindrances, the idea began to prevail that the insane could be best managed in establishments devoted exclu-