

Editorial Department.**Inebriate Asylums.**

THE counsel and the remedy for an inebriate is simple—"Total abstinence, first, last, and all the time." But all who have studied intemperance know very well that it is useless to give this counsel to a man who has lost the power to accept it, even though he acknowledge its wisdom. Confirmed inebriates, as we intimated in a former article, are too often in this condition. To them the inebriate asylum offers aid in the administration of this remedy. It assumes that the patient submits voluntarily to treatment; that he has a desire to be cured, though conscious of his personal inability to effect a cure; and that he, therefore, surrenders for a time his physical liberty in hope of regaining ere long freedom of both body and mind.

There is then a mutual contract between the inebriate and his keeper. The former commits himself into the hands of the latter for the accomplishment of a definite object; and the keeper undertakes the charge. Mutual confidence must thus be at the foundation; and though the inebriate is a prisoner, it is an understood fact that he shall have the largest possible liberty compatible with the end to be attained. He is secluded for one object only—to be preserved from the attacks of his enemy, from the temptations that society might throw in his way, from the opportunities of satisfying the craving demands his appetite will make for its accustomed stimulant. Not so much imprisonment, then, as defence. The wall is thrown up around him not so much to keep him in as to keep his enemy out. Of course, it partakes somewhat of the nature of a direct incarceration, because the enemy has an ally in the man's own weakness, from which weakness he is to be defended.

And not only preserved from the evil effects of his unsupported weakness, but this must be changed into strength. So the asylum endeavours to strengthen him by giving rest from the cares of business—keeping him away from his business. Depressing thoughts will occasionally fill his mind, and an antidote to these is presented in the cheerful and sympathetic companionship of his keeper, who is brought into the closest relationship with him; and who takes care to provide him with diverting mental and physical exercise, which shall pleasantly occupy his attention, to the exclusion of the "blues"