

the clinical teaching of insanity at the meeting of the psychological association of England held in 1869 at Edinburgh. President Haycock, who addressed the meeting, demonstrated the urgency of quick treatment in cases of insanity, to effect a cure. In support of this proposition, he gave the testimony of his old friend Thurnam, physician of the Wilts Counties Asylum, who had been convinced from experience that out of 20 cases of insanity, unaccompanied by any other disease, 19 were cured when the attack had been a recent one. Thurnam adds if diseases were treated within three months from the first attack, four fifths would recover, whilst if 12 months elapse before treatment four fifths on the contrary would become incurable. Drs. Sibbald, Lowe, Thurnam, Clouston, Ramsay, took a very active part in this discussion. Not to be too lengthy, we will only quote what Dr. Skae says on the subject, as it appears in the *Journal of Insanity*, 1869-70, page 461.

"As Dr. Thurnam stated, the earlier a case is sent to an asylum, the greater is the probability of a cure : if treated at home, the probability was that the chances of cure were much diminished. I would cordially concur in any proposal for a memorial to the general council, to the effect, that it was very desirable that the teaching of the subject of insanity to medical students should be imperative. Perhaps the medical council would not be inclined to concede this, as the feeling seemed to be general that the medical student was at the present overburdened by the classes he had to attend. Still, he would not be debarred by this from presenting such a memorial. He did not think anything could be more important to medical students, than the study of mental diseases.