

The view includes the whole extent of Benares, the seat of Brahminical learning and the sanctuary of Brahminical superstition, taken from the Ganges, on the left bank of which the city is built; a curve in the river causing it to form a sort of amphitheatre of buildings of the most fantastical shapes, piled up one above another on the steep bank to a great height, and advancing even beyond the water's edge. The various and singular styles of architecture, ruined walls and mud huts mixed with masses of masonry, and melon-shaped and conical cupolas, with here and there a slender minaret shooting up from battlemented walls; the number of ghauts—immense flights of steps to facilitate the approach of crowds of devotees who throng to bathe in the sacred stream; the buildings, of as many different colours as forms, interspersed with the foliage of the peepul and other trees: the whole scene, in fact, conveys an impression of the vast wealth of the few, the extreme poverty of the many, and the gross superstition of all, that throws an air of barbarism over the most elegant structures. The incidents on the river strengthen this impression: the edge of the stream is covered with shoals of bathers performing their ablutions, the most important and frequent of the Brahminical rites; while on the surface of the stream floats the garlanded corpse of some victim to superstition.

But more pleasing objects meet the eye in the native boats, their sterns rising high out of the water, with raised cabins of matting and thatch, looking like floating huts built on the slant, with the occupants perched on the roof, and carrying immense sails of grass mats, slightly tacked together, supported on tall bamboo masts, and propelled by long paddles resembling the "peel" that bakers use to draw the bread from out the oven. In contrast with the crank and crazy forms of these frail barks, are the neat and compact budge-rows or pleasure-boats of British residents of similar build, with raised cabins, covering the whole extent of the deck, closed in with Venetian lattices: the English Governor's pinnace, with its neat rigging, does not, however, strike the fancy like the 'moahpunkee' of the Indian potentate—a long, gayly-painted bow-shaped galley, its tall stern thrust up in the air, terminating in a peacock's head, and having a raised pavillion in the middle. The lightly clad or half-naked forms of the people—their dusky skins and graceful postures setting off their white or bright-coloured draperies and turbans—the elephants bathing, and the crocodile darting on his prey—the marques pitched on the shore, and the distant procession of some chief with his train of elephants and armed followers—complete the Oriental features of the view.

The arrangement and the execution of the paintings are, as usual, masterly; every individual object appears to be delineated with that spirited accuracy resulting from thorough knowledge of its characteristic points; and the general effect is such as to harmonize with the various details: the cloudless blue of the sky and the sunny glow of the atmosphere, its fiery heat tempered by the mist of evening, bring out with great vividness the infinity of hues that enliven the picture; the reflections in the water preventing any harshness from the assemblage of so many intense colours, by blending and softening the whole.—*ib.*

LA TABLE DES MARECHAUX.

When Napoleon returned from his German war, he raised the well known column in the Place de Vendôme, in honour of the army, and in commemoration of the battles fought during that war.

As a more minute, but no less remarkable memorial of that active period, he engaged the painter Isabey to procure a slab of Sevres porcelain, large enough for his purpose, and thereon to paint and enamel portraits of himself and the chiefs, his companions, during the campaigns in Germany.

After several failures, the slab was procured and painted at an expense, as is stated, of £12,000. It was presented by the Emperor, to the corporation of Paris, and placed by that body in the Musée at the Louvre, where it remained a monument of national glory, and a proportionate attraction to the visitors until the restoration, when it was returned (with some indignity) to the corporation, from whom it was purchased by the present possessor, who encountered considerable odium as a Napoleonist, by his purchase. He hoped, at the Revolution of 1830, that the best of republics would have appreciated his patriotism in desiring to preserve for France so curious a production; but he was, deceived, and after various vicissitudes La Table des Marechaux has come to England, forms an exhibition at the Western Exchange in Old Bond-street, and is to be disposed of, by a species of lottery, for 3,000 guineas.

The table is a simple circular frame of gilded brass, richly and appropriately sculptured, containing the slab of porcelain—a piece of art in itself of great rarity and value. The slab is supported by a strong short column of the same material, having a capital and pedestal of gilt and graven brass, bearing on its shaft figures of war, glory, victory, peace, plenty, and chiselled with peculiar force and fine taste from the porcelain itself. The face of the table is now glazed, and it represents, in rich enamel, portraits of the Emperor seated in his robes of state, surrounded by rays, on each of which is inscribed the name of a victorious combat, and between the rays are portraits of his Marshals—Soul, Davoust, Marmont, Lannes, Mortier, Ney, Murat, Bernadotte, Angereau, Caulaincourt, Duroc, Bessieres, and Alexander Berthier—admirable and impressive likenesses, and painted in a delicate and refined, yet strikingly ef-

fective style—so minute in finish, that the highest magnifier improves the appearance, and so rich in colour, that independently of the subject, the harmony and tone of the work are of themselves sufficient to justify its pretensions as a work of art. Soul, as he was in 1805, and as we lately saw him, are strangely contrasted; but as among the old men at Queen Victoria's coronation, the duke of Dalmatia was pre-eminent, so among the heroes of 1805 there is no face more finely expressive of genius or high resolve. This curious table will have many visitors, and from the nature of the scheme it is not at all unlikely that it may be purchased and remain among us. It might be well, by arrangement with the subscribers, to allow a certain number of chances to the British museum and some other public institutions, on payment of the proportionate amount of subscription.—*Lon. Atlas.*

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES AND PUBLIC LECTURES.

Among the most remarkable and peculiar characteristics of the present age, Mechanics' Institutes and lecture rooms occupy a prominent place. But it is often the fortune, or misfortune, of such agents of civilization that they work below the surface unseen by the crowd above, yet producing salutary effects which are felt every where; insensibly, perhaps, but surely exercising a deep and permanent influence on the tone and development of the national mind. When some philosophic historian shall come by and by to investigate the "motive-powers" of this period of movement and transition, he will assign a large space to the delineation of that adult-educational machinery which is now at work through these numerous channels of daily and hourly instruction; yet it may be asserted with confidence that the great bulk of the middle and upper classes really know very little about such institutions, beyond the bare fact of their existence.

Yet there is hardly a nook or corner where some such establishment may not be traced: the suburban neighbourhoods of London swarm with them, every town and village in the country has its theatre of practical knowledge, and wherever there is a population of two or three hundred souls, there, you may rely upon it, the standard of oral education has been unfurled amidst anxious groups of delighted listeners.

It matters little from what small beginnings these institutes, scientific and literary, take their rise; the power they possess for good is equally effective, whether they sprung out of a trifling subscription among the members who formed the nucleus of a future pantheon, or originated with a committee of men of rank and influence, whose example rapidly draws in contributions from all quarters. The virtue that is in the design ensures its own success; and from the most insignificant opening in the back parlour of a stationer's shop, the sphere of operation gradually enlarges until the institution is enabled to appropriate to itself a separate and complete establishment. You might pass one of those fountains of instruction without detecting it in the dense mass of shutters and doors and windows of a populous out-of-town street; for its wealth is all stored up in the warehouse within, instead of being lavished, like that of a speculative trader, upon the house front. Perhaps you are conducted down some blind alley which has a most unpropitious aspect for philosophy or the muses, and then led through a low door into a dark passage, where you tread cautiously till you come to a staircase, which you ascend with no little misgivings, wondering what is to come next of this low senate house of the mechanical orders. On a sudden you pass into a lighted amphitheatre, well-built, admirably constructed for hearing, filled with convenient seats capable of holding several hundred persons, crested with a commodious gallery, and having a commodious stage for the lecturer, where he is brought close to his hearers, with room enough for any description of models, maps, books, or pictures which the nature of his lectures may demand. The place is crowded with an attentive auditory; the utmost decorum prevails throughout; you are surrounded by artisans and their wives and daughters, who have come here, after the labours of the day, to enjoy an evening of intellectual pleasure; you trace the effect of every sentence in their features; you see that they follow the speaker step by step; that a luminous intelligence is gradually developed as the lecture proceeds; and, when it is over, a buzz of admiration denotes the new world of knowledge and gratitude which it has awakened in their understandings and their hearts. Perhaps the subject of the lecture has been chemistry, or steam, or astronomy, or horticulture, or history, or mechanical science, or music, or colonization, or poetry, or geography, or the art of design, or painting, or moral philosophy, or political economy—for all these, or rather all sciences and arts comprehended within the acquisitions of the age, are embraced, from time to time, in these institutions. And such is the scene which is unfolded to you in a lecture room, which is constantly open to the curious and enquiring, and of the exact nature of which multitudes of people who do not know how to get rid of their evenings, are wholly ignorant.—*Spec.*

THE SANATORIUM.

This excellent institution may now be considered as fairly set on foot, by the proceedings of a public meeting held recently at the London Tavern. The club system, hitherto confined to providing cheap luxuries for the wealthy, is in this instance applied to the useful and beneficent purpose of ameliorating the condition of the

middle classes in a time of sickness. What the public hospital is to the poor and working man, the Sanatorium will be to the intellectual labourer; with this difference, that instead of being indebted to a charity for relief, the subscriber will purchase a right to a full share of the benefits of the establishment much cheaper than he could procure ordinary comforts and attendance under similar circumstances. The advantages of such an institution to great numbers of persons in this metropolis, who by education and social position are rendered keenly alive to the want of those appliances and means of recovery, which are as important as medical skill in combating disease, are so evident, that one would think it is only necessary to make known the fact of its existence in order to ensure it support.

To the great majority of persons in the middle ranks of life, who owe their subsistence to personal exertions, a fit of sickness is a heavy calamity; threatening, if it does not actually involve, loss of the very means of existence, temporary privation and embarrassment, and the bodily and mental suffering consequent thereon. These evils may be materially lessened, if not altogether prevented, by that timely resource to a curative process which the Sanatorium will induce. Reluctance to call in medical advice, and to "lay up" on a slight attack of illness caused by functional disorders, frequently superinduces organic diseases that shorten life and make it a daily state of suffering. For such ailments, diet, relaxation of labour, and change of air, under medical surveillance, are more efficacious than drugs; and in these cases of incipient indisposition, as well as in the more rare instances of acute and dangerous diseases, the benefits of the Sanatorium will be of vital importance. Take the case of the hard-working intellectual labourer, of any profession, and of either sex, living in lodgings away from family connexions; isolated, self-dependent, and limited in means. The usual avocations become burdensome, the spirits sink, the strength fails, and the whole train of petty miseries consequent on a disordered state of the system oppress body and mind; a physician is applied to—reluctantly, from a dread of the gain on scanty resources by fees: the case is a common one—general derangement of the animal economy, requiring rest, regimen, and the usual minute attention prescribed to the valetudinarian. The medicine is taken, but the patient is confined to a close room, in a narrow, noisy street—breathing a polluted atmosphere while he remains in it, and taking cold whenever he goes out; and recovery, which with a pure and genial atmosphere, and a strict observance of sanitary regulations, would be an affair of a week or two, is retarded for months; perhaps the slightest disorder becomes a severe illness, or a chronic disease as lasting as the life it tends to shorten and embitter. The case of an individual whose pursuits are entirely interrupted by some violent disorder, attended by a hiring nurse, mercenary, ignorant, and heedless—or neglected altogether, except when the dear-bought visit of the physician returns—is still more lamentable: the symptoms, aggravated by anxiety of mind, urgent wants ill-supplied, and a prospect of future necessities still more pressing, defy the aid of medicine, and death is the relief for a constitution utterly broken up.

These are not fancied miseries—overcharged pictures of affliction known to but few beyond the sufferers, but instances which are but too familiar. The case of a labouring man who breaks a limb and is taken to the hospital, where he is cured in a few weeks, and there an end, is fortunate in comparison with that of one for whom there is no hospital, and scarcely the hope of a cure.

In the Sanatorium, a payment of about two guineas a week ensures the patient bed, board, and medicine; the attendance of skilful physicians and nurses; the use of a separate room, if requisite; and the range of suites of spacious apartments, well ventilated, and regulated to a temperature adapted to the delicate state of invalids; with the use of baths, and all the facilities and curative means that science has provided in aid of medicine. Strict regularity of regimen, perfect quiet, pure air, and the watchful attentions of qualified nurses, under medical superintendence, are advantages that few but the very wealthiest can command, even at home, where the pillow of the sick bed is tended by the ministering angel of poor mortals—affectionate woman.

It is a leading principle of the Sanatorium, that the regular medical attendant of every individual takes the entire management of his patient, unless the advice of the resident physician be preferred; the medical officers of the institution only following the instructions given by him: and it is a part of the plan to instruct nurses in the duties of their calling—a most desirable extension of the uses of the institution.

The proceedings of the first public meeting were chiefly formal. The ladies, who formed a considerable portion of the assembly, appeared to take a lively interest in the subject: indeed, to that numerous and valuable class, governesses and teachers, most of whom are far away from home and friends, the Sanatorium will be peculiarly beneficial.

The number of life subscribers of ten guineas each, requisite to make up the sum of £3,000 as a fund to commence operations, will, it is hoped, soon be filled. Subscribers of a guinea annually are already numerous; they are privileged, not only to share the advantages of the establishment at a lower rate of cost, but to recommend non-subscribers as inmates.

CHARACTERS.—We injure our own characters by attacking those of others.