

In my last Report, I alluded, as delicately as possible, to the destructive results of a certain vice, more familiar perhaps to the American than to the English Asylum Physician. The opinion I then gave on the spread of this vice in the present time, was questioned by a Canadian journalist, who asserted that it was confined to the lowest and most ignorant class of society. I must, however, state that the observation of asylum physicians throughout America, goes to affirm the contrary. In my Report for 1857, I quoted from the talented and experienced President of the Association of Medical Superintendents of Asylums, an eloquent extract on this subject, a brief passage from which I here introduce:—

“It is a fact of deep importance,” writes Dr. McFarland, “that this vice recruits its victims, not from the ranks of the naturally low and sensual, but from a class comparatively high in the social scale.”

Dr. McFarland did not make the above statement without sufficient grounds, and it has never been controverted by any one competent to offer an opinion on the subject.

Ages of 185 patients admitted:—Under 20 years, 15; 20 to 30, 50; 30 to 40, 51; 40 to 50, 32; 50 to 60, 26; over 60, 11. Total, 185.

These figures coincide very closely, proportionally, with those of 1859.

Religion of the above 185:—Protestants, 134; R. Catholics, 42; Unknown, 5; None, 4. Total, 185.

Birth-places of the above 185:—Ireland, 64; Canada, 38; Scotland, 34; England, 32; U. States, 9; Germany, 3; N. Scotia, 2; W. Indies, 1; P. Ed. Island, 1; Unknown, 1. Total, 185.

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