

dences, the water closet, if not properly constructed and carefully attended to, never fails to become offensive, and too often harmful. Those of the asylum were supremely offensive, and doubtless also harmful. It may be supposed that I proceeded with the requisite improvements and alterations in the objectionable arrangements now pointed out, with the same promptitude and speed as in the purification of the basement; but the unsophisticated reader, who has never become practically acquainted with red tape complications, nor has had his thinking machinery countervailed by one of those ponderosities called a Board of Directors, must slacken his pace and wait for the advent of the angel, who has to come down to the pool. Such an angel had come to the asylum in August 1853, in the person of one of the new Board of Directors. I invited this body to an ocular and nasal inspection of the huge cess-pool. A piece of the basement floor, in the east corridor, was cut out. One of the innocents peered into the abyss. The uprising stench so overpowered him that he had to be helped away in a demoralised state. The result was, so pressing a report to Government, that instructions, authorising me to proceed with the requisite works for removal of the nuisance with as much speed as possible, were issued. I did so, and carried out the work without the assistance or encumbrance of either a directing architect, or any of my newly appointed governors; the former had not yet been invented, and the latter had no desire to re-enter the building before completion of the cleansing process.

A second angel came two or three years later. He was a *Head* angel, and he brought with him Samuel, who happened to be chairman of the Asylum Board. The water-closets, notwithstanding my many entreaties for their improvement, still continued in their odoriferous elegance. Incredible as the indecency may appear, the bath-room and water-closets of each ward were in one small compartment. I walked into one of these, and was followed by the head angel and Samuel. The former speedily pulled out his handkerchief, and with it shielded his olfactories, exclaiming, "Mr. M. this nuisance is intolerable; it must be attended to." It was attended to accordingly. The floors which were all rotten were renewed. The bath was removed to a more suitable and separate room. The new floors of both were, contrary to my advice, sheeted over with tinned copper, at much cost. The architect, who was now appointed, failed to appreciate the strong affinity between copper and ammonia, and the Directors were not deeply read in chemistry.