

to take steps towards establishing a temporary Lunatic Asylum, and £2,000 were appropriated to assist in carrying out the objects of the formation of the commission. In addition to the purchase of the property, the commission received plans for the elevation of the building, two of which were approved and paid for. Mr. Ostell, of Montreal, and Dr. Luther V. Bell, President of the "American Association of Medical Superintendents of Institutions for the Insane," were the successful competitors. The plan submitted by the former gentleman was placed first, and he received £50; that of the latter, second, and he was paid £25.

We earnestly hope to see active steps taken in this matter immediately. The country wants these Institutions for the Insane—a common humanity demands them; and the country, for the sake of unfortunate humanity, must have them.

MEDICAL MEN FOR EMIGRANT SHIPS.—By the 15th and 16th Vic., cap. XLIV, sec. 38, every passenger ship is bound to carry a *duly qualified* Medical practitioner, in the following cases:—1. When the duration of a voyage exceeds in a sailer 80 days, and in a steamer 45 days, and the number of persons on board (including crew) exceeds 50. 2. When the voyage is to North America, and the passengers exceed 100 adults, and the space for each is less than 14 feet. 3. When, whatever the destination or the space, the number of persons on board exceeds 500. Penalty, £50. But by the Merchant Shipping Act (1854) clause 219, to come into operation 1st of January, 1855, it is provided that the following ships shall carry on board, as part of their complement, some person duly authorized by law to practise as physician, surgeon or apothecary:—1. Every foreign-going ship having 100 persons or upwards on board. 2. Every ship having 50 persons or upwards on board, which is bound on a voyage from the United Kingdom to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, or to the westward of Cape Horn, or to any place on the west coast of Africa, or the east coast of central or south America, or to the Falkland Islands. Penalty, £100.

IMPROVEMENTS IN MODERN SURGERY.—We have received from Henry Smith, Esqr., a copy of the Oration delivered by him, March 8, 1854, before the Medical Society of London, at the eighty-first anniversary. In this oration, Mr. Smith, after a passing tribute to the worth and talents of the late lamented Frederick William Barlowe, notices in succession some of the leading improvements which have, of late years,