

great many people think there is altogether too large an emigration of an undesirable class, and that greater restrictions should be placed on the emigrant being allowed to land. Certain it is that, practically, there are but few restrictions, and but a very small per cent. are sent back to their own country. Paupers, criminals, insane, pregnant unmarried females, and persons likely to become a burden on this country, are supposed to be sent back, but only a percentage of these are, owing to the difficulty in detecting them. I will say nothing further of that, but devote the remainder of this letter to showing how the sick and destitute emigrant is treated when he lands here. First of all, the steamship companies pay a tax of 50c. *per capita* on all foreigners they land, they in turn receiving this from the emigrant in selling him his ticket. This fund is used in maintaining Castle Garden and the State Emigrant Hospital and Refuge. So that the emigrant supports these institutions, and does not become a charge upon the country. Emigrants entering the port of New York, go to Castle Garden, where they are either allowed to land, or are detained on account of sickness, or for the purpose of being sent back. The "detained" are sent to the Hospital and Refuge on Ward's Island, where those sick are treated, and those to be returned are kept until the ship on which they came over, sails back. Emigrants having landed, and being in this country less than a year, are sent to this hospital if they become sick during the year after their landing.

It will be seen that the field from which the State Emigrant Hospital draws its patients is a large one—the whole world. There were represented, in the wards of the hospital last year, twenty-nine nationalities. There were 2,705 patients treated last year, of whom the largest number were German, Irish, Italian, then Russian, English, Swedish, and more or less of each of the other nationalities. Not over twenty-five per cent. can speak English. When I first came here in May, I expected to be very much handicapped in arriving at a diagnosis, on account of this difficulty in speaking to the patients, but have since learned to appreciate the fact that the patient being unable to describe his symptoms is not an unmitigated evil, as he is, at the same time, prevented from misrepresenting or magnifying them. It simply makes a person pay more attention to physical

signs, and look more closely for positive symptoms, than depending too much on the patient's own description.

With a little knowledge of German, and occasionally the aid of an interpreter, one gets along very well. The class of diseases is as varied as are the patients themselves, but there is, of course, a very large preponderance of acute over chronic cases.

The main hospital is a large, red brick building, and is an ideal hospital, both in the way in which it is built, and in the way in which it is conducted, there being no hospital in New York which is cleaner and better kept. There are ten wards of thirty beds each, the wards being entirely isolated from one another. During the summer months the male patients are removed from the main building to four wards, entirely separate from the main building, and built for this purpose. This allows a thorough disinfection of the hospital every summer. In another large building, of ten wards, and beds for 100 patients, the contagious and infectious diseases are quarantined. There are usually from forty to sixty patients in quarantine. A large proportion of measles that come here is complicated by broncho-pneumonia, and a great many by diphtheria. This is accounted for by the fact that the patients take sick on board ship, are exposed to the weather, and to contagious diseases on the vessel, have been poorly fed and clad, and, by the time they reach here, a large number are pretty sure to get up broncho-pneumonia, and are fortunate if diphtheria does not still further complicate the measles.

In the Insane Asylum there are forty patients. Last year the 2,705 patients were distributed into medical wards, 1,122, surgical 579, children 257, quarantine 427, obstetrical 131, insane 188. The mortality rate (exclusive of insane) of hospital proper was 5.2 per cent., which is unusually low, as low if not lower than that of any other hospital in the city. This is particularly good when the class of patients, and the large number of acute cases are taken into consideration. Doubtless the situation of the hospital on Ward's Island, where there is plenty of fresh air, and where the hygienic surroundings are good, has much to do with it. There is a resident staff of four physicians, and a Consulting Board of seven. There are in addition to the hospital, other buildings for the destitute and de-