

as patients, and not as violent criminals or demons possessed with an unclean spirit, an idea which was prevalent amongst the Jews, Persians, Greeks, Romans and eastern nations generally; a belief, too, which extended into the Middle Ages of the Christian dispensation. It was about the time that Pinel introduced his treatment of kindness that a commission, appointed by the British House of Commons to inquire into the condition of lunatics throughout the kingdom, revealed a horrible state of affairs. It was brought out in evidence that when patients were conveyed to the Dublin asylum, they were tied to the back of a cart and made to walk the whole distance. The result was that about one in five lost an arm. The medical treatment at Bethlehem, according to the physician in charge there, was to bleed the patients twice a year; after that they took vomits once a week for a number of weeks, "and then," he significantly adds, "we purge them." After a century, the patients in the asylum at New Westminster, if they have not been subjected so largely to the bleedings, vomitings and the purging, have had extended to them a method of treatment which was harsh and cruel, and consisted principally in mechanical restraint and immersions in cold water till they were nearly suffocated. One of the commissioners stated that he had never seen many of the mechanical contrivances used—one might say daily—to restrain violent patients, except in museums. The list of them, as published in the public newspapers, reminded one of the instruments of torture which the executioners of the Inquisition, are reported to have used on heretical Jews and Moors, in the days of faith, when Ferdinand and Isabella ruled at Aragon.

In suspending the medical superintendent, the Provincial Secretary, Hon. Col. Baker, remarked in his letter that he did not think that gentleman was personally aware of what was going on in the institution under his care, the cruelties having been doubtless perpetrated by the attendants, but nevertheless he was technically responsible, and had to suffer accordingly. When we consider that one patient lost his life by reason of being closed up in a small closet, bound hand and foot, so that he was suffocated, or broke his neck, it is no wonder that the Government thought it was time to act. The condition of things in the asylum was well con-

cealed from the public though grand juries visited the institution regularly twice a year, and found everything apparently all right. Probably this will be another argument in favor of the abolition of this relic of an obsolete civilization, as it is called by many, for as prison and asylum inspectors they are far from being of any practical use. They are simply shown around as so many visitors would be, and everything is arranged beforehand for them to look at, and it is certain the superintendent of a gaol or an asylum will take good care to have everything shipshape for the occasion. We may feel assured, however, that in future the Provincial Government will take good care that no more abuses will be permitted in the asylum at New Westminster, and if they have existed so long it was simply because they escaped detection through no fault of theirs.

Prince Edward Island.

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THE WITNESSES IN THE ROSSIN CASE, OR, PROPERLY SPEAKING IN THE FRANK DEROCHE CASE.

We gave the cross examination of Rossin in the last JOURNAL. We now produce his direct examination by the Attorney-General:

"I got no money for my services from Mrs. McKenzie (wife of Rev. A. A. McKenzie, Presbyterian minister), got nothing from any of these people for my services; did not ask any nor hope for any. I bought some medicine for her and nourishment: spent it all, and a little more, in medicine and nourishment. I did not make one cent out of it. I spent all the money Dickieson gave me; made nothing out of his wife for attending her. As to Sarah McRae, I paid fifteen cents over the money she paid me, for medicine. The lending of money had nothing to do with the treatment. As to Andrew McRae, I paid him the same back. As to David Matheson, made nothing out of him: used the money for practising. As to Eliza Rollins, spent the seventy five cents on medicines; got no profit out of this transaction. I was at James Dickieson's. As to Arthur Dickieson, I expended \$7.50 in seven sponges, at fifty cents apiece, then I got *rectum suspendum*, a