

AIRING COURTS

Most of the airing courts are devoid of trees. In some cases even seats are lacking. It is a distressing sight to see the patients walking up and down in the glaring sun without protection. Several poor creatures were noticed huddled on uncomfortable benches and literally covered with hundreds of flies. One patient of the catatonic type was left standing in the sun until he was fearfully blistered, no employee apparently noticing the condition of affairs.

In some cases the fire escape verandahs were used largely by the patients as airing courts.

RESTRAINT

Restraint and seclusion is all too common in certain institutions, due, not to intentional inhumanity, but to lack of knowledge on the part of superintendents and staffs untrained in the scientific management and treatment of the insane.

In one asylum no formal account is kept of either restraint or seclusion although it was said that the sanction of the physicians was generally obtained.

Three patients in restraint—one a boy of thirteen were noticed in one airing court,—the court being unprotected by trees from the glaring sun.

Another boy of thirteen was found secluded in the so-called strong room.

In the dungeon-like strong room in the basement of an institution we found a maniacal man, and in the women's department an excited woman similarly secluded.

The wife of one Superintendent admitted that three of her patients had been at least half the year or more in strait jackets.

Another patient who had been in an institution for a year and a half is locked up three weeks out of four. The reason given for her confinement being unruly or restless conduct. The forms of restraint used are mostly the strait jackets, the semi-sole, and handcuffs.

Many of the so-called strong rooms are unfit for human habitation. Their use for seclusion can not be too strongly condemned.

OCCUPATION OF PATIENTS

The modern scientific method of providing occupations suited to the various needs and capabilities of the insane for therapeutic economics and humanitarian reasons are apparently entirely unknown in the county asylums and alms houses.