

ments introduced into each, and adopting such as commended themselves to his judgment. Now, we know from personal inspection, that the windows of many, and we doubt not of all, the modern asylums of Great Britain, are so constructed, that it is impossible for any of the inmates to open, or break through them. In some institutions the frames are made of metal, and painted so as to resemble wood; in others, screens of strong wire gauze are placed between the individual and the window. To ensure proper ventilation, some have a pane which admits of being opened by means of a secret spring; others have an arrangement, by which the upper division of the window can be lowered a limited distance.

At all times, the importance of having properly-secured windows in Lunatic Asylums has been recognized. The strong iron bars, which gave the old institutions so dismal, prison-like an appearance, were placed before the windows for security. Why then, we would ask, are the windows of the Toronto Asylum in such a condition, that an unfortunate lunatic, with suicidal propensities, may, at any time, obey the promptings to destruction, of a diseased mind, by opening one of them, and precipitating himself therefrom? The Commissioners had better attend to this matter immediately, else the unfortunate lad, Black, will not long remain the only victim.

---

*The Queen's late Accouchement.*—A report was current in the London daily papers, and found its way into some of the American journals, professional as well as lay, that Chloroform had been administered to Her Majesty Queen Victoria during her late accouchement. The *Lancet* of the 14th May contained an editorial article, leading its readers to suppose that such was not the case, and commented at some length, in rather unmeasured terms, on the extraordinary nature of the rumor, the possible danger of such practice, and the awful responsibility of advising and administering the letheon to a sovereign, whose royal example would no doubt be followed by every anxious woman about to become a mother. We were, therefore, not a little amazed to read in the leader of the *Medical Times and Gazette* of the subsequent week, a rebuttal of its contemporary's denial, and a confirmation of the original report. The truth appears to be, that chloroform was administered to the Queen by Dr. Snow in the presence of Sir James Clark, that she continued to inhale it for the space of an hour—the last of parturition—but just sufficiently to experience its anodyne effects, with which she expressed herself well pleased, for she never took enough to be rendered completely insensible. It was administered by holding a handkerchief, into which it was dropped, over her face. The labor, the seventh she has undergone, was perfectly natural.