

It will not be amiss, however, to quote here a paragraph from a recent work published by Dr. Ray, "the Nestor of Psychological Medicine in America."*

"When a Hospital intended for 200 patients is made to receive 300 they excite and disturb one another—dangerous and even murderous collisions become unavoidable; the means of ventilation are deficient; and consequently the air of the house is loaded with effluvia calculated to produce disease; the officers, who need the utmost strength and serenity of mind in performing their allotted work, are constantly filled with apprehension; and the result of it all is that the hospital fails to accomplish that degree of comfort and restoration which it otherwise would. Let it be distinctly understood, therefore, that to place a patient in a hospital already full, is to inflict a positive injury on many for the doubtful chance of benefiting one." *

We have already shown that the census returns give a total of 1254 persons of unsound mind in this Province in 1871. At the present time the number is doubtless far beyond this; but even if not so, a great many are now neglected and homeless; many are suffering in jails, or lodged in poor-houses, and many are a heavy burthen upon their families; and unless steps are taken to provide accommodation for them, the misery and distress of these afflicted ones will appeal more strongly than ever for sympathy and relief.

Granting that of the whole number reported, as many as one-fourth may safely be left to the care of their friends, there still remain nine hundred and forty (940) to be provided for. We have at Mount Hope, at the end of 1875, three hundred and eighteen (318), with barely room for any more without resorting to expedients which crowding may compel us to adopt; but when this year shall have half completed its course, if admissions continue as heretofore, our every bed will be occupied, and every available space taken up.

To afford the requisite accommodation, three modes may be suggested, leaving it for the Government and the Legislature to adopt the most feasible. First a "Cottage System"; second a system of "boarding out" harmless patients; and third, the erection of an additional Hospital at the eastern and another at the western extremity of the Province.

* Report on the Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, New South Wales, for 1874, by Dr. W. Norton Manning, Superintendent.

* "Contributions to Mental Pathology," by Dr. Isaac Ray, 1873.