

Lunatic Asylum, with all its disadvantages, to nearly a level with the most favoured of similar Institutions in Europe.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

ROBERT SPEAR, B. M., L. M. Cantab.,

Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London.

To the Hon. Vice-Chancellor,

Chief Commissioner of Toronto Lunatic Asylum.

Extract from the British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science.

REPORT OF THE TORONTO LUNATIC ASYLUM. — We acknowledge the reception from Dr. Rees, the late Physician of the Toronto Lunatic Asylum for the Insane, of the Report of that Institution for the last year, with a Summary for the last five years. At the late hour at which they were received, we find it impracticable to pay that attention to them which their importance demands. The crowded state of our columns from matters which are of extreme importance to the profession at large, entirely precludes this. We have, however, examined the documents, and find in them abundant demonstration of Dr. Rees' perfect fitness for the full discharge of the important duties with which he had been invested, and which we are sorry to understand have been rather abruptly terminated. Dr. Rees' health has been much impaired from, we understand, some injuries received from a Lunatic, and he is now preferring just claims, in which we hope he will be successful. We have never heard but one sentiment in his favour, viz., one of praise; and it is to his exertions that the Toronto Asylum chiefly owes its existence."

From the Montreal Medical Gazette, April 1, 1845.

We call the attention of our readers to the valuable report of Dr. W. Rees, addressed to the Board of Commissioners on the condition of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, of Toronto, under his professional charge; and we regret that want of space has prevented us from publishing in our present number the statistical tables which accompanied his report. They are drawn up in a most clear and satisfactory manner. By Dr. Rees' report the average amount of cures since the opening of the Asylum has been 60 per cent., which we conceive redounds most highly to his credit; and considering the limited accommodation in the building, the many perplexing and mortifying difficulties which he had to encounter in the execution of his onerous duties, it speaks volumes in favor of his thorough acquaintance with the malady, to the treatment of which he has for some years given up his whole attention and energies.

In a very able report drawn up by Dr. Spears, in March '43, we find as confirmatory of this opinion of ours, a statement of the average number of cures effected in different countries, by which we learn that our friend Dr. Rees stands second only on the list. The average number of cures effected at Bethlehem on all cases is there stated to be 63 per cent. In the Connecticut Asylum, 57—40 per cent., in France, 42—42 per cent., in England generally 32 per cent. How stand the Mortalities? In Connecticut there are 4—4 per cent., in Paris 7—7 per cent., and at Toronto 7—5 per cent. The report above alluded to of Dr. Spears, with others of Drs. Dunlop and Rees we hope to be permitted to publish in future numbers, for they contain a mass of information rendered doubly valuable at this moment, from the fact of all the institutions at present existing in this Province being merely of a temporary description.

*Extract from the First Report of the Asylum, by the Hon. R. S. JAMESON, V. C., and Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, 1841. **

"When assuming the responsibility and the organization of the New Asylum, I well knew the benevolent ardour with which Dr. Rees has long devoted himself to the subject

* *Extract from the very able speech of the Hon. Chief Justice Robinson, on the occasion of laying the foundation Stone of the New Asylum, Toronto, August 26th, 1846.*

"The erection of a new gaol in this city left the old gaol at the disposal of the proper authorities, and it was applied exclusively to the purpose of accommodating the insane who being collected there