

ART. XXXI.—*Medical Institutions &c. of Paris.* By W. H. HINGSTON, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.

(Conclusion.)

In, and around Paris, there are ten establishments (private) for the reception of the insane. They are all favorably situated. Most of them are fitted up in style approaching to elegance, with every comfort, and even luxury, that humanity could suggest, or fancy desire. On the establishments of Esquirol and Pinel in particular, too much praise cannot be bestowed. The precepts laid down by Pinel, and followed by Esquirol, have caused a complete revolution in the management of the insane. Previous to their teachings, they were treated with cruelty and harshness, as beings incapable of appreciating kindness. Loaded with chains, they were thrust into dungeons, into which the light of Heaven feebly penetrated, and there treated, without any reference whatever to their recovery. A mad house formerly served the same purpose as a gaol, namely, to shut out from society individuals dangerous to it. The inhuman treatment to which they were subjected, soon produced the result too often devoutly wished by friends and relations—perfect quietness was generally soon obtained, and patients were removed without difficulty—*en carreau*.

Pinel and Esquirol taught that reason may be dethroned temporarily; that it may be re-placed upon the seat it once occupied, and that firmness, tempered with gentleness—not coercion—is the means to be employed.

The revolution that has, since their day, taken place, and the happy results by which it has been followed, must afford pleasure to all those within whose breast one sympathetic note of pity responds to the voice of misery.

A list of the "Causes" of Insanity, and the trade, occupation, or profession, which seems most to influence it, may not be void of interest. The following are the statistics for 1819, of M. Segoyt, published in the *Paris Medical*.

PHYSICAL CAUSES.		MORAL CAUSES.	
Effect of Age,	532	Love and Jealousy,	801
Idiotism and Inherited,	3145	Sorrow,	1369
Excessive Irritability,	958	Political Events,	313
" Labor,	217	Ambition,	473
Want,	458	Pride,	340
Chastism,	450	Religion improperly understood,	632
Skin Diseases,	67		
Wounds and Injuries,	144	Total known causes,	13,123
Syphilis,	106	" unknown do,	5,849
Hydrocephalus,	29		
Epilepsy and Convulsions,	1383	Total,	18,972
Fever, Phthisis, and Heart Disease,	343		
Emanations from Putrid Substances,	25		
Abuse of Liquors,	957		