

be supported for life, it is very clear that the public interests are best consulted by so administering our insane hospitals as to render them most efficient in the *cure* of insanity. Under our present system the very contrary of this result is secured. New cases of insanity either cannot be admitted whilst they are new, and therefore largely curable, or they are, from various erroneous motives, detained at home until they have become chronic, and consequently very largely, or almost entirely, incurable. They are denied early admission, because we have no room for them ; and we have no room for them because *three-fourths or seven-eighths of our beds are held for life by persons who cannot recover*. Is it not, then, manifest that the *retention of these incurables is the cause of this evil*, and that it would be removed, or very materially obviated, by the institution of some system, which, while it would secure to these adequate protection and comfort for the residue of life, would, by the consequent prompt admission of all recent cases, prevent, as far as possible, the increase of incurables ?

We have initiated the system of Branch Asylums, and in so doing I think our government has led the way towards a vast improvement in the condition of the *entire body* of the insane. Our system has since been initiated in England, and even our neighbours in the State of New York have not felt ashamed of receiving instruction on this head from us.

I do not say that I would advocate the system of Secondary Asylums for the residence of incurables, were it capable of demonstration that either in Canada, or in any other country, there ever has been, or will be, provided a sufficient extent of accommodation in primary Asylums. The State of Massachusetts probably occupies a higher position than any other community, not only in its provision for the insane, but for every other class of the destitute and afflicted. The population of the state in 1860 was only 1,221,464, or 147,630 less than that of Upper Canada. The aggregate expenditure of Massachusetts, in support of its public charities and reforms, is now half a million dollars annually. In the charities are included the three state Lunatic Asylums of Worcester, Taunton, and Northampton. Besides these institutions for the insane, there are the celebrated McLean Asylum at Somerville, and the City Asylum, in South Boston. Notwith-