

Penel, in Paris, was braving public opinion in removing the chains and fetters from the insane at the Bicetre in 1791, and at the Saltpetriere in 1794. In America, Rush and others had imbibed the spirit of reform, and the good work went on, so that we might say the dawn of the present century witnessed the first attempt to treat the insane on rational and humane principles.

The early history of the hospital is quite as meagre and obscure as that of the asylum. The word hospital comes to us from the Latin words *hospes* and *hospitalis*, of or relating to a host or guest. From the mediæval Latin we get *hospitale*, a large house or palace, an inn. The same word, contracted, appears in old English as *hostel*, and in modern English as *hostelry* and *hotel*. In ancient Greece the sanctuaries of *Æsculapius* included establishments akin to mediæval and modern hospitals. A Roman lady named *Fabriola*, in the fourth century founded at Rome, as an act of penance, the first public hospital, and the charity planted by that woman overspread the earth.

At the beginning of the present century both asylum and hospital stood on about the same plane in regard to public favor, and both were utterly shunned and detested except in cases of great emergency, and then only by the indigent and friendless. The asylum was a madhouse indeed; the inmates were treated like wild animals, and were simply held in custody as a protection to the public. The hospital was also a synonym for the most barbarous treatment, and the public regarded it not as a place for curing disease but a place for experimentation by the doctors, and admission to one was regarded as a prelude to sure and certain death. The laws of sanitation, anæsthesia and antisepsis were still unknown, and the nursing was of the rudest and crudest character. The process of evolution from this condition to the present is simply marvellous, and is entirely due to the splendid achievements of medical and surgical science. The popular prejudice against hospitals, except in isolated cases, has entirely broken down, and people of all ranks and classes when afflicted with bodily disease now feel that the hospital furnishes not only the best medical and surgical skill, but the best nursing and equipment for the amelioration of their condition and hope of recovery.

I now purpose to draw a parallel between the asylum and hospital of to-day to see how we compare in scientific attainment and in popular estimation. I fear there still lingers a prejudice against the asylum which we have not quite overcome, but which the hospital is now almost entirely free from. When we consider the tre-