

could be constructed and maintained much more economically than Institutions which are designed for the treatment of violent and dangerous lunatics.

2. It is generally admitted that it is not conducive to the improvement or cure of the curable insane, that they should be treated in the same Institution with numbers of hopeless incurables, and on this ground alone, the proposed separation of the two classes of lunatics has been, by many, strongly insisted on.

3. Were the two classes of Asylums established, the idiots, who, in spite of every effort to exclude them, crowd our principal Asylums, would find shelter in the Secondary Asylums, to the great comfort and benefit of themselves and of the patients in the Primary Institutions; for it is now well understood that when idiots and violent lunatics are associated together in one building, both suffer from the unnatural neighbourhood. The idiots, being imitative, acquire the mischievous and dangerous propensities of the violent lunatics, and the lunatics, on the other hand, are aggravated and annoyed by the presence of the unhappy idiots.

In confirmation of the views above expressed, it may be noted that in the suggestions respecting Asylums, contained in the printed circulars on Colonial Hospitals and Asylums, communicated by the Imperial Government to all Governors of Colonies, and referred to at length in last year's Report, the importance of excluding idiots from General Asylums and of having separate establishments for incurable patients, is specially noticed; and the same views are also urged in the Report of the Medical Superintendent of the St. John's Asylum for the past year.

E. A. MEREDITH, *Chairman.*

J. M. FERRES,

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F. ZÉPHIRIN TASSÉ.

Ottawa, 12th May, 1865.