

3441 beds are set apart. Nearly 3000 occupy the Salpêtrière at the same time, and the mortality averages 1 in 7.28. The number of recoveries among those of aberrated intellect is about a third, no coercion, but on the contrary, the greatest gentleness is used towards these unfortunates. The mortality among them averages about 1 in 9.35—a much more favorable per centage than that among the males.

As this is the last institution of the kind that I shall have occasion to mention, I may be pardoned for recording my humble, yet sincere testimony in favor of the *moral* management of the insane, which I had so much pleasure in observing at the above institutions. In no instance did I observe the least fear in the countenances of the demented on the approach of their keepers; on the contrary, their appearance was invariably hailed with pleasure; those who *could* smile *did* smile, and the furious seemed for the moment to forget their fury. On gazing at the faces made cheerful by kindness, I could not but think that there was much truth in the poet's assertion:

"There's a pleasure, even in madness, which  
Mad men only know."

## REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

XII.—*Auscultation and Percussion*. By DR. JOSEPH SKODA. Translated from the Fourth Edition by W. O. MARKHAM, M.D., Assistant Physician to St. Mary's Hospital. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston. Montreal: B. Dawson. 1854. Pp. 380. 5s.

Since the period when Lænnec first unfolded to the world his system of auscultation, its beholders seem never to have thoroughly recovered from the effects of its first sight. Were we to enter into the immediate results that followed, it would be merely to recite the oft-told tale of the introduction of every novelty to scepticism and ignorance, of the reception of every scientific discovery by its earliest acquaintances. It is enough to know that the present day opens upon a cloud of Lænnec detractors, enthusiasts, meddlers, opponents, and plagiarists like the one that has irrevocably closed upon their ancestors. The lesson taught by vanity—*cavite et fugite*—appears to be too great for weak mortality to learn and practice. The archetype stethoscopist needs no defence against his successors: a candid inquiry into his researches must conclude with assigning to him the exposition of a new science. And as for predeces-