

than they have been of late years. Of 1,047 patients admitted by me, in $7\frac{1}{2}$ years, 517 have been men and 530 women, thus showing a very close approximation of the rate of insanity in the two sexes.

The numbers of single men and married women admitted in 1860, have fallen below the average. This variation may be purely accidental, and no proof of improved morals in the former, or in the husbands of the latter.

No question is so frequently put to the physician of a Lunatic Asylum as that which calls upon him to state the most productive cause of insanity. Those who are most familiar with insanity, find themselves the least able to reply to this question. The reader of one book, or the doctor of one patient, is sure to understand disease and its cure much better than the student of half a century. So, also, he who has never seen half a dozen of lunatics, and has never thoroughly sifted the history of a single case, may be found very dogmatical on the question under notice, and may propound articles of belief which the patient investigator might hesitate to subscribe to.

Not very long ago there appeared in a Canadian newspaper a letter from a medical gentleman, who stated that he was inspector of liquors in Cincinnati, and amongst other large assertions in the epistle, was one to the effect that he had himself often been called on to certify to the lunacy of quite a number of patients daily—candidates for the county Lunatic Asylum. The figures were, very certainly, far beyond the capacity of the Asylum, or of all the four Asylums in the State of Ohio; and if all the other members of the profession sent in patients only one-tenth as multitudinously as this gentleman, twenty Asylums as large as that at Cincinnati would be insufficient for them. This letter was

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