

training there received by lunatics could hardly be imparted elsewhere, and it would be most undesirable that the tranquillity of secondary establishments should be disturbed by undisciplined and turbulent inmates. Disregard of this consideration would, very probably, rapidly destroy the comfort, and impair the discipline of such institutions ; and thus lead to their abandonment as philanthropic failures.

The next consideration is as to the establishment and mode of support of these secondary residences of the insane. The constantly accumulating burthen of supporting for life all the insane can hardly, I apprehend, be contemplated by any government. Lunatics have no distinctive claim on national philanthropy. Free support in our asylums has been conceded to them, not because of their insanity, but because of their destitution. The law obliges all to pay for their support, who are able to do so. The national aid, then, is granted to poverty, not to lunacy *per se*. The *destitute* blind, deaf and dumb, and idiotic, have similar claims, and in all Christian countries their claims are recognised ; but under no government of free popular institutions is the support of the poor, or of any particular classes of them, defrayed from the national revenue. Under absolute monarchies, where the people have not been invested with the privilege of self-government and the control of their own local affairs, it is clearly the duty of the sovereign to do that which he withholds from his subjects the means of doing.

In Canada we require no such paternal alimentation. We are at liberty to support the poor as we may deem most proper. Our government and legislature will have done their part, when they have made such statutory provisions as will render it imperative on us to discharge this duty. All that can further be required will be the carrying out of a judicious system of governmental supervision.

The greatest benefit which can be conferred on the insane is their restoration to reason ; and this is also the greatest benefit that can be conferred on their friends and the community. Every measure of legislation purporting to be for the relief of the insane should have this primary reference. If ten insane persons can be cured at the same expense as one uncured insane person can

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