

been distilled " never, though shivered and ruined, parts with its acquired sweet odour ; so, verily, did the shattered vase of poor Sam Alderdice retain, to the last, the odour of his beloved *duck*. On last Saturday I saw in the asylum, two paretics, who, for several months past, have been unable to utter a single word. Had these men been keen shooters of duck, is it not probable that they might yet be able to articulate their darling monosyllable. But at least as to *one* of these two, his dumbness is a great blessing to his neighbours, for when I first became acquainted with him, his language was very disagreeable, and his veracity was very frail. Rest assured, gentlemen, there is, in Moore's simile of the rose-hallowed vase, a valuable truth involved. The mind that gathers and skillfully distils the roses blooming on life's pathway, may, even when shattered by disease, give out fragrant perfumes, whilst that which has become saturated with the fetid emanations of poisonous weeds, must disgust, or corrupt, all that approach it.

The three physical symptoms which I have mentioned, even when considered apart from those mental aberrations which are usually associated with them, might suffice for a reliable diagnosis ; but when the somatic impairment is supplemented by the concomitant mental manifestations, it is impossible that any doubt as to the true character of the malady can remain.

The extent to which I have already trespassed on your time, forbids enlargement of this paper by a detail of the various intellectual and moral wanderings of the parietic. Suffice it to say, that though they present different forms in the two sexes, they are, nevertheless, essentially identical. In each, they derive form and colour from the pre-existing mental habitudes ; so that, while the male parietic revels in his imaginary possession of uncountable riches, or in the projection of superherculean enterprises, his female co-mate luxuriates in silks and priceless jewels. Whilst *he* showers his gold in hundreds of thousands on all who question not his assertions, or marshals armies a hundred times more numerous than those of Napoleon or Xerxes, *she* revels in the delightful anticipations of marriage, and the bringing forth of the most beautiful children that ever yet fond mother laid eyes on. Not seldom, indeed, does it happen, that already she has assurance of being in that de-

licate way which all ladies who love their lords, rejoice in ; and she befittingly engages herself in preparing those "*little things*" which the new-comer must need.

Both are perfectly self-satisfied, and what is equally good for those who have them in care, they are usually satisfied with all their surroundings. Nothing can be more unfounded than the dread of the friends of paretics, that they must find asylum residence miserable.

I should not close without alluding to a very striking mental impairment, which, in various degrees, is exhibited by paretics. This is feebleness of memory, which from simple aggravated forgetfulness, sometimes extends up to total obliteration of the faculty. The asylum inmate, who, perhaps has been resident for months, or even longer, will tell you he has been in for ten days, or three weeks, and he is always going home to-morrow, or next week. I have had parietic patients who have forgotten having dined within half-an-hour after swallowing a double allowance. These patients will tell visitors, (who are always so charitable as to believe anything *bad* that bears against the superintendent or his assistants), that they are starved—though it is wonderful how little like starvation they appear.

This impairment of memory presents itself, in some cases, at an early period, long before entrance into an asylum, in the inability of the patient to find the fitting words for expression of his beclouded thoughts ; so that we are sometimes unable to say whether his speech interruptions are the result of muscular tongue lameness, or of mere amnesia. It is my belief that when this mental condition obtains, the course of the disease will be rather rapid. I have seen, in private consultation, three cases, in which early dissolution occurred before intellectual aberration had been markedly exhibited. One, indeed, of recent occurrence, seen with me by my friend, Dr. Covernton, could hardly be regarded as a case of mental dethronement. A very sure means of detecting amnesia is to induce the patient, provided he is able, to write a letter. In ever so short a page, you may find him reiterating the same phrase three or four times over—in almost immediate contiguity. In closing a letter to his wife, he may subscribe himself, "your obedient servant," or "very respectfully yours," and he may have begun with "Mrs. S— ;