

patients into whose minds no thoughts of the kind would ever enter were they not influenced by persons of depraved habits.

The criminal is generally a man of low brutal instinct, and this trait of his character will always shew itself whether he is sane or insane, and when placed in an asylum among respectable patients, instead of being influenced by any efforts that may be employed with a view of working some reformation in his character and conduct, he only seeks to pollute others, and his intercourse with them is manifested by the mischievous and pernicious effects that follow in his trail. And besides all this, respectable patients are exposed to great danger in coming in contact with men who never in their sane moments had the most distant idea of the rights of property, or never placed any value on human life when it stood in the way of their perpetrating some gross outrage."

These observations are most important and action upon them should not be delayed. Separated they must be, and the foolishness of delay may be illustrated sooner than is dreamed of.

The average number of patients during 1872, was 361.51. During the seventeen years that the asylum has been in existence, only 28.73 of all the admissions have recovered; 23.62 per cent. died, and 46.74 per cent. of all admitted are still in the asylum. This is not a favorable record, and leads us to fear that in Ontario cases of insanity are not sent to the asylum for treatment, till all hope of benefit from treatment is passed. In the Province of Quebec, lunatics are generally sent to goal and kept there till they become permanently insane and hopeless, when they are sent to the asylum to become permanent burdens on the province. The record of the Rockwood Asylum would almost lead us to believe they followed the same plan in Ontario; we hope, however, for the credit of our own sister Province, that in this matter they show common sense. Perhaps there may be some blame for this in using the term Asylum, which leads many to think it is a place for *keeping*, not *curing* unatics. For ourselves, we prefer the term, "Hospitals for treating the insane," and think the considerable good would follow its employment.

#### FLINT'S PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

A new edition of this standard work on Practice of Medicine has just been received by us. It contains nearly one hundred pages of additional matter principally upon diseases of the nervous system, and the entire volume has been brought up to date. As a book on Practice for constant use, there is perhaps none superior to Flint, and we very strongly recommend it to the notice of those of our readers, who may need such a work.

#### PERSONAL.

Dr. G. P. Girdwood, professor of Practical Chemistry, McGill College, has just returned from England, where he has been on a brief visit to his relatives.

J. B. Edwards, D.C.L., F.C.S., professor of Chemistry and Practical Chemistry, Bishop's College, sailed on the 30th of August, for England.

Dr. Shaw, lecturer on Chemistry in Bishop's College, has returned to Montreal, after a visit of a couple of months in England.

Dr. Trenholme, professor of Diseases of Women and Children, Bishop's University, performed ovariotomy on the 2nd of September; on the 8th, the patient was progressing favourably, not having had a bad symptom. The tumor weighed 30 lbs.

Dr. Eugene Nelson, of Fourth Avenue, New York, has been in the city, on a short visit to his relatives, *en route* for Kamouraska.

Dr. Farley, graduate of McGill College, 1873, was in the city for a few days, on his way to the London Hospitals.

#### Reports of Societies.

(Sixth Annual Meeting of the Canada Medical Association,) St. John N. B., 6th Aug., 1873.

The President, Dr. Grant, called the meeting to order at half-past 10. The following members being present, Drs. Cote, Grant, C. C. Hamilton, W. Bayard, Parker, W. S. Harding, S. L. Earle, Wickwire, Steeve, Botsford, Hingston, David, Turgeon, Bayard, Keator, Travers, Boissey, Robillard, and G. A. Hamilton.

Dr. C. C. HAMILTON, seconded by Dr. EARLE, moved,—“That Dr. David be requested to act as *pro tem* Secretary, in the absence of Dr. Peltier, general secretary.”—Carried.

The minutes of the afternoon meeting of the last Session were read and confirmed.

Dr. DAVID read an excuse from Dr. Peltier for his absence from this meeting, and Dr. Steeve read one from Dr. Marsden.

Dr. HINGSTON, seconded by Dr. BAYARD, moved an expression of regret at the cause of absence of Drs. Marsden and Peltier—the former—the illness of his wife—the latter—the death of a beloved daughter.

The following gentlemen were elected ordinary members:—Drs. W. Nelson, Christie, Vail, Daniel, J. F. Black, R. C. Thompson, Waddell, McLaren, McPherson, Burnett, P. R. More, Blanchard, Tra-