

vince perhaps eight times as much as a curable patient; and if sufficient accommodation for *all* does not exist, every incurable keeps out eight curables, who, in consequence, may pass into the same hopeless condition.

The first duty of this Institution is to restore the insane to reason: whatever surplus benevolence it may have at command, should be extended to the most exigent of the incurable insane. By this course the largest possible number would be benefited; by a different one, much public evil must be inflicted.

DISCHARGES.

The discharges in the year have been 75; and the average period of residence of those discharged, has been 10 months and 22 days. Deducting, however, the long residence of 5 patients, amounting to 25 years, 7 months, and 15 days, the average for the remaining 70, is 7 months, and 12½ days. One of the five long residents was discharged from the University Branch: she had been in 6 years and 20 days. Two were discharged from the Malden Branch; one of whom had been an Asylum resident for 7 years, 9 months and 29 days; and the other, 5 years and 9 months. Cases of recovery, such as these, should teach us to be slow in giving up hope. At one time, all the three were very unpromising.

The shortest periods of residence occurred in twelve cases, varying from 11 days to 3 months. Three of these cases were but temporary results of intemperance, one of which indeed was not truly insanity; two were of the physico-religious class; two, puerperal; one, recurrent insanity from lactation, the fourth or fifth attack, and not probably the last; the remaining four presented nothing of special in-