

insane persons had received treatment; and the present report, after briefly alluding to the particulars connected with the patients admitted during the last year, contains some important statistical information, based upon the whole number of cases admitted since the year 1841.

At the date of the last report there were 151 patients in the Hospital; and there were admitted during the year 177, giving us the number of 328 who had received the benefit of treatment. Of these 159 have been discharged or died, leaving 169 under treatment at the commencement of the present year. The discharges are thus accounted for, cured, 80; much improved, 5; improved, 24; stationary, 30; died, 20=159. This mortality, although high, amounting to 1 in 8¹⁷/₂₀ is accounted for by the unusually great number of patients admitted, labouring under organic disease.

One of the chief characteristics of the present century is the superior treatment of insanity—in the abolition of those modes of restraint which were formerly so much in use, and which have been too frequently the means of perpetuating a calamity in an unfortunate individual, which a milder treatment would most probably have mitigated, if not entirely removed. The striking benefits resulting from this absence of restraint, cannot be more forcibly depicted than in Dr. Kirkbride's own words:—

“In reference to the admissions of the past year, I may remark, that in addition to the greater number of individuals labouring under organic disease, already referred to, there have also been many, curable and incurable, who while at home, had been subjected to peculiarly rough and violent means of restraint, supposed to be necessary for their own safety or that of the community. On not one of these, after reaching this hospital, has there been the least restraining apparatus of any kind. In numerous instances those who at home had been heavily ironed—whose movements had been limited to the extent of the chain which secured them, and who were shut out from every thing likely to soothe their malady—before they had been in this Institution more than a few weeks, were to be seen during the day, usefully employed in the garden, about the grounds, or in the workshop, and in the evening, quietly reading or listening to the reading of others in comfortable parlours, engaging in different kinds of amusement, or attending lectures or parties.

“The number of this class has been gradually increasing each year since the opening of this hospital, and particularly from the more distant parts of our own commonwealth. It is another proof that our Institution is becoming better known, and the true character of well-regulated hospitals better understood. It is a proof, too, that a healthful feeling begins to pervade the community, which will not, as heretofore, permit any class of our afflicted fellow-beings, to be subjected to forms of treatment often far worse than that given to the idle pauper or even the abandoned felon.

“Many of these cases have returned home perfectly well, and each one that does so, effects more in enlightening a whole neighbourhood than volumes of essays or scores of statistical tables. It is an argument which none can resist.

But we have already remarked that a very important part of the report is occupied by the statistics of the ad-

missions of the last five years, viz., the years 1841, '42, '43, '44, and '45. These results are valuable, and appear to be well worthy of record. It is impossible for us, however, to follow the author of the report through all the tables which he has furnished; we shall make such selections as appear most valuable.

The total number of cases admitted for the five years was 769, being 447 males, and 322 females; and the age of more than the half of whom was between 20 and 30; the number being 274; and this ratio is consonant with general experience. The general results, as far as age is concerned, are thus given:—

The number of persons becoming insane, when between twenty and thirty years of age, is shown by the records of all our institutions, to be much greater than during any similar period of life. For example, between ten and fifteen, we had but eleven admissions, between fifteen and twenty we had eighty, making ninety for the ten years; while between twenty and thirty, three hundred and thirty four are reported; between thirty and forty, one hundred and sixty-seven; between forty and fifty, one hundred and thirty-four; between fifty and sixty, thirty-nine; between sixty and seventy, ten; and between seventy and eighty, four. It must be remembered, however, that the number of persons in the community between twenty and thirty years of age is actually greater than of either of the other ages designated, except between ten and twenty. Insanity is obviously of rare occurrence before fifteen; we have never had a patient here under ten, and the youngest case of the disease I ever had under my own care, was eight years old, although it does sometimes occur earlier in life, and well attested cases are reported by writers of its existence even in infancy. Between fifteen and twenty, many cases are seen, but after twenty their frequency is much greater.

With reference to social condition, the results are as follow:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Single	269	136	405
Married	152	139	291
Widows	—	47	47
Widowers	26	—	26

Other tables are given, in which the influence exerted by occupation, by supposed causes of the insanity, by the ages at which the disease supervened, &c., &c., are exhibited, but the results of these we pass over, for the purpose of examining the statistics of the mortality at this institution; and we glean these general results from tables constructed for the purpose of exhibiting the *monthly* mortality, discharges, and cures, during the period over which the observations extend:—

	Admissions.	Discharges.	Cures.	Deaths.	Ratio of deaths.
1841	176	61	30	9	1 a 19 55
1842	123	120	60	12	1 a 10 25
1843	140	126	68	17	1 a 8 23
1844	153	134	75	12	1 a 12 75
1845	177	159	80	20	1 a 8 85