

set apart for the comfort and confinement of that unhappy class of our fellow beings, those whom God has deprived of the exercise of mind and reason, has, we think, never been questioned. By some mysterious design of Providence, there is scarcely a town or a village throughout the whole world in which a number of those unfortunate beings is not to be found—thrown helpless as it were on the protection of the general society, whose efforts alone can provide an asylum where their wants may be attended to, and where by a proper course of treatment they may in many instances be restored to reason and happiness. With a large number of poor lunatics in Nova Scotia, with means at our disposal, and examples to guide us in its construction and management, to our shame be it spoken, we have not yet a place of refuge to which we can commit for safe keeping and judicious care, those among us who have of all others the deepest claim on our benevolence and sympathy. For years the great necessity of such an asylum has been urged, and compassionate individuals have been ready to aid it with their subscriptions, but by some heedlessness or mismanagement, we seem as far from the accomplishment of the object as ever. When at the last session of the Legislature a sum was granted in aid of the erection of a Lunatic Asylum, it was confidently hoped that the present year would witness some steps taken, effectually to carry out the design, but the year has nearly passed away, and the unhappy imbeciles existing among us, are still either confined in the garrets and cellars of private houses, or moaning away their existence in the over-crowded apartments allotted to them in the Poor's Asylum. In either case they do not experience the care and treatment their situation requires, and the majority of such deranged persons necessarily become confirmed lunatics, from their unavoidable exposure to those accidents which serve to increase their malady. We know not where the fault lies, or who is to blame for the non-erection of an asylum whose necessity is so urgent and immediate, but the delay is a grievous wrong and disgrace to our country, which should be remedied effectually and immediately. We should hope there are few among us so lost to the dictates of humanity, who would let their feelings or prejudices interpose to turn them from what they know to be their duty. We have before urged in these pages the great necessity for a refuge for the insane, and we earnestly renew our appeal that those in authority will not so far forget the feelings of our common nature as to allow persons of unsound mind among us to suffer and die, but will rather immediately set about the establishment of an asylum, a work of necessity and mercy now long, delayed.

The pamphlet to which we would direct attention is the substance of several reports offered to the Association of Medical Superintendence of American Institutions for the Insane, by John M. Galt, M. D., Superintendent and Physician of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum of Virginia, at Williamsburg. The author evinces much knowledge of the subject on which he treats. His advice