

Provisions relating to the medical and hygienic attendance on the Lunatics.--Interior economy of the establishment.

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It is admitted by every one that discipline is indispensable to the existence of any establishment however small it may be. It is necessary to maintain order, and is the basis of every true system of administration: no institution can exist without this condition, and it should be the subject of earnest attention on the part of those directing such establishments.

To secure a good supervision in reference to medical administration, especially in a lunatic asylum, two conditions are indispensable; firstly, a judicious classification of the inmates; secondly, a system of rules to which all must be subject and obey.

In our establishment the classification of the patients is made as much as possible in relation to their mental status, according to the exigency of the disease, the nature of the attentions they must receive, and the state of sociability with which each of them may be endowed; that is to say, according to their disposition to live among their fellow creatures.

The discretion required to make such classification demands continuous and frequent labor, because, as a rule, more than three-fourths of lunatics are dangerous and require confinement. No confidence can be placed in any of them, even those whom long experience has judged inoffensive. An insane patient being considered docile, may be classified one day as inoffensive, yet on another occasion be otherwise classed, on account of changes which may occur in his disposition, peaceful, up to that time. He may