

latrines are mere pits without outlet of any kind, and are extremely offensive. "Besides these there are in each cell fixed commodes with a copper basin and chain leading to a pit placed either below or at the back of them—a pit for each commode; and as these are open throughout, having no effluvium-traps, or convenient provision for frequently flushing them, they are fruitful sources of bad smells, as well as disagreeable objects to look at. Those attached to the noisy ward are made to open into a court at the back of it, overlooked by the windows, and are especially disgusting." The water-supply is inconveniently arranged, and the baths and lavatories so defective that it may be said that there are no provisions for cleanliness. There is a warm bath, but it is so placed that its effects are neutralized by the necessity of passing from it through a cold and exposed passage. There is no land cultivated by the patients, nor are there any sort of means for employment or exercise. There is a shower-bath in the "noisy ward," which it may be suspected is turned to no good purpose. The entire control is vested in the head keeper, who manages the stores and keeps the accounts, and seems to be practically irresponsible. The medical superintendent is non-resident, and receives only 50*l.* a-year, out of which he has to provide all medical and surgical requisites, an arrangement which requires no comment. The three *ex officio* inspectors visit only twice in the year, the Governor never. Scanty reports are returned half-yearly. Under this system the average stay of the patients is over three years.

It would be very little to say of this institution that it had better never have existed.

Considering the defects of the present building, and that there is a great demand for increased accommodation—a very large per-centage of the inhabitants of the Island, of all classes, being asserted to labour under or to be predisposed to mental derangement—a new structure seems to be urgently required. The plans ought to be prepared by some competent engineer, and submitted to the Home authorities.

81. *Gambia*.—There is no lunatic asylum in Gambia.

Despatch,
March 24, 1863.

The hospital stands low and to leeward of a malarious swamp. It contains about thirty-two berths, with about 700 cubic feet of air per head, which is insufficient of itself, but is to some extent supplemented by good ventilation. There is no sewerage, and the drainage is open. The one latrine, "situate about thirty-five paces to the south-west of the hospital, is emptied when necessary, and the contents thrown into the sea." In other respects it seems to be good. The Governor visits very frequently, and is stated to be the sole author of its general efficiency.

82. *Sierra Leone*.—About 595 patients are annually treated in the Free-town hospital, which is under the immediate control of the Colonial Surgeon. The wards are too much crowded, but are said to be well ventilated. There is no resident medical officer.

Despatch,
April 18, 1863.

In the Kissy asylum there are great sanitary deficiencies: the drains are open, the latrines discharge themselves into cesspools, and the average space per head is only 603 cubic feet. The management is intrusted to a superintendent at a salary of 50*l.* per annum. The two Colonial Surgeons visit on alternate days, a system which it is difficult to reconcile with the rule of the asylum, which requires the "Medical Attendant" to inspect the whole establishment three times daily. There are no regular visits by superior authorities, and the reports are insufficient. It does not appear that any records of restraint are preserved.

A system can hardly be satisfactory which leaves the management to an ill-paid keeper. One of the visiting surgeons should at least be required to visit, inspect, and give orders for every part of the institution daily, and thus to be made responsible for its condition. The same visitors might inspect and report on both the hospital and the asylum. It appears that there is also a Quarantine hospital at Kissy, which is used for infectious cases. No details are given.

83. *Gold Coast*.—The hospital of this colony was closed in 1851 in consequence of the refusal of the people to pay the poll-tax.

Despatch,
Feb. 26, 1863.

84. *St. Helena*.—The only apparent deficiencies of the public hospital of St. Helena are its bad ventilation and total want of regular visits of inspection, and the insufficiency of reports.

Despatch,
July 13, 1863.