

although some noise was noticeable in two of the female wards, but there was an absolute freedom from it in the Cottages.

In the Refractory Wards, however, as must be expected, there was a great deal of roughness, and much noise and general excitement, notwithstanding which there was only one case of mechanical restraint, namely, a woman strapped to a fixed chair. In the other portions of the Asylum there was not a single case of mechanical restraint or seclusion on the days of my visit, and in many of the wards such a thing never takes place now.

A very distressing case of maniacal manslaughter took place in the Refractory Ward on the day prior to my visit. A male patient, without provocation or warning, attacked another patient by knocking him down and then jumping on him, causing such injuries as to result in death the day following the occurrence. A coroner's jury enquired into all the circumstances, and found that the death was caused by the injuries received, but that no blame was attached to the attendants in charge. Some facts were elicited during the investigation, which I attended, that seem to necessitate a better system of supervision and reporting by the attendants of the violent proclivities of patients. The Medical Superintendent will therefore give instructions as follows:

1st. Chief attendants to record in the daily report books every case of violence resulting in flesh wounds or discoloration upon patients.

2nd. Such reports are to be carefully examined and enquired into by the Medical Officer in charge of the wards every morning, and if of sufficient importance, this officer will report the same to the Medical Superintendent.

3rd. Three attendants shall be constantly on duty in each of the Refractory Wards, certainly in the two wards on each side of the house in which the worst class of patients are