

sively to their care. It was obvious that persons engaged in their service would become familiar with the ways of the insane, and thereby learn a thousand arts of management, and acquire a degree of skill in the performance of their duties, quite unknown to others. The medical man, too, concentrating his attention upon a single disease, and devoting all his time to the little community around him, would obtain an amount of practical information which no other source can supply. He would also impart to the general management of an establishment a kind of efficiency which can only spring from continuous and systematic effort conducted upon a large scale. The latter result was rendered probable by the example of general hospitals, where congregations of similar cases afford unusual means for studying their nature and obtaining the highest possible degree of skill in their treatment. The world has not been disappointed. The beneficial results expected from special hospitals for the insane, have been abundantly experienced, and the benevolence of the age has been largely engaged in establishing them, until they have become firmly rooted in the necessities and affections of every Christian community.

The superior success of such hospitals in the treatment of the insane depends, chiefly, on the greater efficiency of their moral management. It is one of their merits, indeed, that this management works so easily, and substitutes so quietly its own arrangements for the suggestions of disease, that the uninitiated observer finds it difficult to appreciate its real value; and thus often mistakes the character of its results. He sees the patient taking no medicine, perhaps; calm in his discourse and movements; readily complying with the wishes of others; and engag-