

Will did not find it very difficult to satisfy her that he could and did mean all and more than he had said. Great was the amazement of the Fosters when presently they re-entered the sitting-room together, and Will announced that he never meant to say good-bye to Magdalen at all.

Mr. Foster's consent given, he changed all his plans, invested his capital in England after all, and eventually settled down on a large farm near the

Fosters, as happy a husband, with as happy a wife, as was to be found in the United Kingdom.

Is that possible? Could they live for long together without the difference between them becoming a discord?

Yes; for, as the wise professor at the breakfast-table points out to us, "It takes a very *true* man to be a fitting companion for a woman of genius, but not a very great one."

H. L.

## LUNATIC ASYLUMS AS A LABOUR FIELD.

BY J. A. CAMPBELL, M.D., F.R.S. EDIN.



AT different times and in different journals space has been given to the consideration of Lunatic Asylums and their inmates, to the improvements introduced into the forms of treatment, and to the success which has followed treatment by liberty, kindness, and

comfort, as distinguished from the old barbarous treatment in vogue prior to the introduction of the existing lunacy laws. Most of our readers must know

that these lunacy laws are the result of the early and active interference of the now venerable Earl of Shaftesbury, the Chairman of the Commission of Lunacy in England.

The mode in which asylums are now conducted is most creditable to the managing directors, and also to the medical heads of such institutions. During the last twenty years some of the best students of their year at the several Universities and schools have gone into this department of medicine; and, what is far more to the point, many have used their opportunities to add greatly to the knowledge of the pathology, treatment, and causation of the fell disease insanity, a disease which at once breaks up a family, which, for a time at least, cuts the sufferer off from contact with the world, and frequently leaves a stain difficult to eradicate both on the individual and his family. The advances in treatment, the systematic and careful manner in which all that has to do with the subject is dealt with, the Psychological Society, with its discussions and its quarterly journal, keep medical interest alive, encourage the youthful observer, and prevent the development of a do-nothing school of asylum managers, in whom the medical element is dormant. We trust that ere long combined and diffused knowledge will enable such perfect treatment to be pursued that few, *if any*, curable cases will fail to recover. We are glad to see that the objectionable habit, at one time rather freely indulged in, of narrating stories, which bordered on the horrible, in some annual reports of asylums, is becoming rapidly a thing

of the past. Still, with all the proper publicity that exists, there is on the part of some of the public a craving for sensational matter in anything connected with insanity, and literature on the subject is by some read with a mixture of interest and abhorrence.

The subject of this paper, however, deals more with the caretakers than the insane inmates, and its object is mainly to point out what a good field for intelligent workers there now exists in the asylum service of the country, giving a slight sketch of the real work, touching on the remuneration, and quoting examples of the latter from recently published reports of Scotch and English asylums.

There are in Scotland seven Royal Asylums which were started early in the history of the treatment of insanity. They exist by Royal Charter, and the directors have powers to grant pensions after a given period of service to any of their employés. There are besides eleven district asylums, built after the passing of the Scotch Lunacy Act in 1857, and a peculiar and rather inexplicable anomaly exists as regards these asylums, viz., that their committees have no power under the Act to grant pensions, while the Lunacy Commission which came into existence under the same Act has the matter quite comfortably arranged for its paid members.

In England there are fifty-one county asylums, ten borough asylums, and thirteen hospitals.

Though I know of no return that gives the proportion of attendants to patients, yet, if we estimate at one attendant to fifteen patients, we shall certainly be under, not over the mark. From the Returns there are 55,525 lunatics under asylum treatment, so there must be more than 3,000 attendants employed in their care.

Papers have been written upon attendants and their training by asylum physicians of experience; and, what is much more to the point, within the last few years much has been done to make the position of attendant more agreeable; but attendants, like poets, must be born; every one is not alike fitted for such a post. The chief requisites are good physique, good temper, intelligence, a willing mind, and a sympathising manner when required. Many people exist who

would be in their element in assisting in the care of the insane, and frequently a want of knowledge of the work, and of the nature of asylum life, prevents many from seeking to enter this service, as their ignorance surrounds such occupation with unknown horrors. Yet in asylum service they probably would be more comfortable, better paid, and in age, or failing health, in the enjoyment of a sufficient pension, earned with no greater risk than in many services and employments that are more sought after.

The usual duties of attendants are, to take care of a given number of patients, to work with them, and to enter into their amusements. A short sketch of the day's work of a female attendant may not be out of place. To be up and dressed at six in the morning; to get the patients up; to do up the beds and rooms, ordinary housemaid's work; then to prepare her own breakfast; afterwards preside over the patients' breakfast, which is usually set out by the kitchen staff, in a common dining-hall (in some asylums morning prayers are an institution); then a country walk; employment in knitting or sewing; the patients' dinner. Then the attendants dine in two parties, half of each sex at a dinner. This must be the most cheerful feature of the day: the diet good, the number large enough not to be monotonous. The afternoon is taken up by outdoor exercise and the usual female avocations. The patients and attendants assist in making the clothes, &c. One night a week at least is given to some amusement, such as a dance, concert, or theatricals. As the asylum is constituted for private or public patients, so usually does work or amusement predominate; and the opinion of many attendants who have tried both is that, of the two, work is least hard. Most private patients who have any glimmerings of reason still left, prefer being in a large mixed asylum to being in a small private asylum, the dulness of the one being a strong contrast to the stir and bustle of life in the other. The question of private asylums will probably soon have to be considered. In the opinion of many, houses for the detention of the insane, where the profits go directly into the pocket of the detainer, are an anomaly which should not exist in the present day. Except on amusement nights, the day attendants are relieved from duty at 8 o'clock, and are free till bed-time. And now-a-days, in nearly all asylums, the attendants have comfortable bed-rooms; at one time, in many asylums, they had to sleep among the patients, a hardship which must have prevented the discharge of their day duties.

The male attendants have similar hours and similar duties, except that work on the farm and garden takes the place of sewing and knitting. Both sexes get in most asylums a week's holiday in the year, a half-day in the week, and every third Sunday. Regularity, strict attention to rules, are of course exacted. In all large institutions the most rigorous discipline is a necessity, and this is, no doubt, one of the most irksome features to a newly-engaged attendant.

The following, taken from recent reports, are the wages given in the undermentioned asylums:—

NAME OF ASYLUM.	MALES.		FEMALES.	
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Royal Edinburgh	£ 50 0	£ 27 10	£ 35 0	£ 15 0
Royal Perth ...	50 0	{ not given }	25 0	{ not given }
Royal Montrose ...	41 0	28 0	20 0	14 0
Stirling District ...	37 10	31 10	23 0	18 0
Cumberland and Westmoreland. } Carlisle ...	45 0	30 0	23 0	18 0
Lancashire } Lancaster ...	40 0	29 0	24 0	16 0
County } Rainhill ...	50 0	33 0	27 0	18 0
Asylums. } Prestwich ...	55 0	30 0	30 0	18 0
} Beverley, Yorkshire	36 0	26 0	22 0	16 0
Surrey } Brookwood ...	40 0	28 0	26 0	16 0
County. } Wandsworth ...	36 0	28 0	24 0	18 0

These are just taken rather at haphazard from a bundle of reports. Unfortunately there is not a systematic manner of issuing the financial statement in asylum reports, and therefore in some reports no account of salaries and wages is given at all, in others merely the gross sum is stated.

Attendants may be promoted to the higher post of chief attendant, and, of course, these get better wages. Male chief attendants in the larger asylums usually get from £50 to £80 a year with keep, and female head attendants from £30 to £40. I have known a male attendant become head attendant in a large county asylum, and afterwards be promoted to the lay superintendentship of a small asylum. I also have known a female attendant become a head attendant, and succeed to the matronship of a large asylum. So that there is quite a possibility of getting on, provided that education, suitable appearance, and manners combined with the other requisite sterling qualities are united.

In some private asylums, and one county asylum, ladies are taken as attendants; and provided they choose to enter heart and soul into the work, they should do it well. But even in the higher posts it is difficult to keep ladies from thinking that anything more than supervision is beneath them. All candidates for matronship should act for a short time as ordinary attendants, then they might know a little about the duties, and be able to teach subordinates.

The commissariat department of an asylum also affords a good field for a certain class. In nearly every asylum there is a steward, or a clerk and steward combined, and in the larger asylums an assistant clerk, or storekeeper. The duties of the office of steward are clearly defined: the keeping of certain books, the paying of accounts, the getting in and issuing of supplies. The principal qualifications necessary for the office are good character, steadiness, arithmetical accuracy, the power of writing legibly, combined with the knowledge required as a shopman in a general store. I have known an asylum attendant rise to the position of a steward, and also to that of master of a small workhouse; but there are now so many assistant offices connected with the department, that in the future probably promotion from a lower office will be the rule.

The following are the rates of pay given in the named asylums :—

ASYLUM.	NO. OF PATIENTS.	PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF A STEWARD.
Royal Edinburgh...	821	£200, with board and lodging for himself.
Royal Montrose ...	481	£90, lodged and boarded.
Stirling District ...	312	£90, free house, coal and gas.
Carlisle ... ..	447	£200, part board and washing.
Lancaster ... ..	1,055	£250, with unfurnished house and gas.
Brookwood, Surrey	1,061	£302, furnished apartments, light, fuel, washing, farm and garden produce.
Prestwich ... ..	1,186	£180, with apartments and board.
Beverley, Yorkshire	261	£120, board, furnished apartments, and attendance.

In some asylums the steward enjoys the privilege of living away from the asylum, and having regular business hours. If a steward can between 9 and 5 daily do his work, and take his two principal meals, enjoy

from Saturday till Monday at home, a period of six weeks in the year, undisturbed by any cares or anxieties about his work, and have, say, a fortnight's holidays, he should esteem himself fortunate.

In conclusion, pensions to the extent of two-thirds of salary and allowances can be awarded by the Directors of the Royal Asylums in Scotland, and the Committees of the County and Boroughs Asylums in England, after a service of fifteen years, if the employed be broken down in health, or over fifty years of age. In many instances, as properly should be the case, pensions commensurate with the value of the official have been granted. I believe committees take (and rightly so) into account whether the nature of the office has peculiar disadvantages, such as those dealing with patients, or those whose office has little or nothing to do with cares, anxieties, or heavy responsibilities, of taking care of human life, and award pensions accordingly.

PASSAGES IN GIRL-LIFE.

BY PHILLIS BROWNE, AUTHOR OF "WHAT GIRLS CAN DO."

CHAPTER THE SECOND.—THE SCHOOL-GIRL.

**D**URING the week which elapsed between the Saturday on which the girls and I had our first talk and the Saturday on which we were to hold our first meeting, I noticed that a good deal of discussion went on whenever my young friends had a little leisure for talking. It is true that these occasions were not over-frequent. I have already said that these young ladies had plenty to do. They all attended the same school, and that was one of the large high-class schools which are so usual now-a-days, but which were unknown a few years ago. They were receiving a thoroughly good education, and I think I may say that they appreciated their advantages in this respect, and were desirous of making the most of their time. On the whole, they prepared their lessons carefully, and were industrious and attentive, though it is scarcely necessary to say that there were degrees of excellence amongst them. For example, Dorothea worked al-

most too hard ; Blanche scarcely worked hard enough. It had happened that I had often heard of the difficulties they got into at school, and I fully intended to lead our conversation round to school subjects, so that we might have a little talk about them.

When the time for our meeting arrived, and I entered the room, I found all the girls assembled. Maud at once threw down the gauntlet. She began—

"Auntie said last time we talked together, 'Deserve a good character, and you will have it.' Now I think a girl's character at school depends upon the beginning she makes. For instance, if she has had a sister who was a pupil before her, her character depends on her sister."

"I entirely agree with Maud," said Blanche. "Think of Dorothea's little sister Mabel, now. She is going to school next term. Dorothea has always been good and virtuous, so the teachers

will expect Mabel to be good and virtuous too. And they will treat her as if she were good and virtuous before she has done anything either way."

