

more confirmed or chronic order, their infirmities will aggravate the symptoms, and in time so impress them upon the patients that the impression becomes perpetual. It is a matter of fact that restraint increases the frenzy of lunatics, and induces them to commit suicide, while the system of non-restraint has diminished the number of dangerous patients. The facility with which drunken prostitutes find admission and readmission into the Asylum is remarkable. Their malady is delirium, rather than insanity proper, produced by excessive drinking.

I confess to a feeling which grudges to such persons the benefit of an asylum, and association with the lunatics who are truly unfortunate. Their detention is wholly unsatisfactory, it leads to nothing, it proves no warning against former bad courses, while the presence of people of this class is hurtful to the more sensitive of the inmates, and very seriously injures the morality and interior comforts of the wards.

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The Sunday services have been continued by the Rev. J. Wilson; there has been a considerable increase in the attendance. The harmonium is played by Mr G. Inwood, and the singing is materially improved; this portion of the service would bear comparison with that in many public places of worship. Having gone at some length into this subject in my previous report any further remarks are not necessary. But in allusion to this cheering aspect of the subject, the following remarks by the Chaplain of the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum may not be out of place:—"Whatever may be the difficulties presented by insanity there is no obstacle on the part of the treatment pursued which is likely to cause the patients to doubt the kind intentions of those who speak to them of the obligations and consolations of religion; and even where a melancholy patient has, in connection with his

delusion, entertained doubts and fears that evil was in store for him, an appeal to the uniform kindness with which he has been treated has seldom failed for a time at least to silence the suspicions and allay his fears."

#### EMPLOYMENTS.

The large extent of grounds belonging to the institution affords many useful modes of profitable employment to the patients, especially in gardening and horticulture; several specimens, the result of the labour of the inmates, have been sent to the horticultural societies for exhibition, and highly commended. The inmates are also employed in laying out the ornamental grounds and flower garden. In addition to this, the hay taken off the paddocks has produced sufficient funds to purchase one of Alcock's billiard tables and a demy Columbian printing press; the latter has furnished the means of employing some of the male patients who are approaching convalescence, and others who, under supervision, can be induced to assist in carrying out the arrangements in connection with the "Sunnyside Press." Not the least important employment, however, is that of erecting a new building for a recreation hall. I had the honor of suggesting in my previous report a plan by which this building could be erected at a comparatively small outlay, viz., by the employment of a mason (an attendant) to superintend and take charge of the inmates engaged in the work. The Government having been pleased to accede to this plan, the building is now rapidly approaching completion, and when finished the size of the hall will be sixty-three feet by thirty-three feet, and thirty-two feet in height, having stage and proscenium and all the details and accessories of an elegant hall. One pleasing fact is that the whole of the masons', carpenters', and painters' work has been performed by the patients. A table (No. 3) is appended showing the nature and quantity of the work performed and its estimated value

which is based, not on the time occupied, but what is considered the cost would be if undertaken in the ordinary mode—by contracts.

#### AMUSEMENTS.

The means of affording amusement to the patients has largely increased since my last report. The library includes many works of interest, both truth and fiction. The party of gentlemen who give their performances at the Asylum, under the name of Christy's Minstrels, still continue their kindly offices, and afford a cheering and pleasant variety to the other amusements. In addition to the billiard table already mentioned, there is now a bagatelle table in each of the male wards; and for the recreation of those who cannot be permitted to attend the periodical gatherings a portable piano is carried round the wards, the playing upon which seems to be greatly enjoyed by the patients. In fine weather, a drum and fife band plays in the grounds, the performers in which are patients, assisted by attendants. The good effects produced by the spirited melodies of this band cannot be too highly estimated, as frequently the most melancholy patients are induced to promenade the yards and grounds to a lively quickstep at times, which would otherwise be spent in dreamy inactivity or gloomy forebodings. In fact, one patient, now discharged, and residing in Wellington (B.B.) laboured under what at first appeared to be confirmed melancholia, mainly attributes her recovery to the lively strains of the music played by the band.

The dissolving view apparatus still continues to afford one of the principal means of amusement; the mirth and surprise occasioned by the transition from one view to another, has a most wonderful effect upon the mind, in proof of which the patients converse among themselves as to certain pictures exhibited. The printing press has added a very attractive feature to the musical and other entertain-

ments, inasmuch as the addition to the printing materials has furnished the means of printing announcements of entertainments about to take place, which are posted up in the wards, and create an interest and expectation in the minds of the patients, to whom also programmes are issued during the evening on which the performance takes place. The liberality of the Provincial Government in supplying an American wagon and double set of harness, enables me to give some of the patients excursions to the suburbs, and in other respects has proved a most useful addition to the property of the Asylum. During last and the present summer picnic parties of about forty are taken to the Selwyn and to Lyttelton, all of which have been enjoyed as heartily as if those taking part in them had been in a state of mental health, and frequent wishes are expressed which indicate a lively recollection of these events and an anxious desire for repetition. An enumeration of those ladies and gentlemen, who by their assistance and support in various ways have assisted in carrying out the many means of ameliorating the condition of the inmates, would occupy too much space, and indeed I am certain, is not desired by them. But I cannot permit this opportunity to pass without recording my acknowledgements for many acts of personal courtesy to myself; and material proof of their kind sympathy and co-operation, on behalf of the unfortunate beings placed under my charge. Every amusement that the patient can be indulged in with security should be allowed; and in this powerful means of drawing the lunatic from his disordered train of thought the affluent possess much greater advantages than the needy.

#### CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I would venture to take upon myself to say that were it possible for the public to become more intimately acquainted with the working details of the asylums for