

Part First.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ARTICLE I.—*French Lunacy Statistics.* By ARTHUR MITCHELL, A.M., M.D., F.R.S.E., etc., Deputy-Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland.

THE French Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works has recently issued a Yellow Book entitled—"Statistique des Asiles d'Aliénés de 1854 à 1860."

This voluminous document has been prepared with great care and skill, and the information it supplies is full and minute. Though it deals mainly with the period from 1854 to 1860, it uses, for purposes of comparison, the statistics of the period from 1842 to 1853, and in certain matters takes us as far back as 1835. It is clear, therefore, that it is a work of unusual interest and value.

The following paper is an effort to epitomize M. Béhic's Report. It is neither a review nor an analysis, but an epitome—an abridged account of the topics discussed in the Report, given in a way which, it is hoped, will make it useful.

The remarks made in interpretation of the figures, or as showing the conclusions to which they appear to lead, are understood generally to be very much like those of M. Béhic, but here and there throughout the paper other observations occur, which are intended to direct attention to points of exceptional interest, to show peculiarities in the mode of making the calculations, to indicate that the results may have bearings which are not manifest at first sight, or to attain some other end regarded as desirable.

No comparison is made between French statistics and those of this or other countries. This could not have been done in a short paper, unless attention had been confined to two or three points. It is thought that it will serve a more useful purpose to give such an epitome of the whole Report as an interested reader might prepare for himself.

The distinction between pauper and private patients is not kept up in the tables, and this is to be regretted as many useful lessons are taught by a comparison of the history of the two classes.

All vital statistics are difficult of interpretation,—the unseen influences in operation being so numerous,—but this difficulty points

to nothing more than caution in drawing conclusions, and, more particularly, in drawing those conclusions which are to be received as guides of conduct.

With these prefatory and explanatory remarks I shall proceed to give a succinct account of the latest French Lunacy Statistics,—endeavouring to embody in it as much as possible of the information which M. Béhic gives us in his admirable Report.

I. *Number, Character, Distribution, Size, etc., of Asylums for the Insane in France.*

At the end of 1860 the whole number of establishments in France devoted to the care and treatment of the insane was 99, and of these 57 were public and 42 private.

Of the 57 public asylums, one (Charenton) belonged to the State, 37 belonged to the Departments, and 19 to the Hospices. The private asylums are divided into two classes:—(1.) Those kept for profit and devoted to the wealthy class of patients; and (2.) Those founded by religious bodies and maintained chiefly for the benefit of the poor. Of these last there are 17.

Both sexes are treated in 73 of the asylums, males alone in 10, and females alone in 16.

Of the 86 Departments into which France is divided, 60 are already provided and 26 are still unprovided with asylum accommodation. Only 34 of the Departments, however, have asylums of their own—it being permitted to Departments to contract for accommodation either with private asylums or with the asylums of other Departments.

At the end of 1860 accommodation existed for 31,550 patients in the whole number of asylums. The number of patients actually in them was 30,239. So that there were 1321 empty beds to meet an increase, which for the five years before had been 950 per annum.

The average population of each of the 99 French asylums on 1st January 1861 was 305,—the average for the departmental being 402, for those belonging to the hospices 369, and for private asylums 184. There is a great variety in size, however, and we find

16	with a population below 50 ;
11	” ” from 50 to 100 ;
12	” ” from 100 to 200 ;
19	” ” from 200 to 300 ;
12	” ” from 300 to 400 ;
29	” ” above 400.

Seventy are thus below 400 in their population and 29 above it. Of the 29 the Salpêtrière had 1362 patients at the end of 1860, Maréville 1347, Clermont 1247, Bicêtre 903, etc. There were altogether 11 with more than 500, and these 11 contained 10,036 patients, or more than one-third of the whole.

Among the different classes of asylums the patients were distributed as follows on the 1st January 1861 :—

In asylums belonging to the state or departments,	15,470 or 51·1 per cent.
" " hospices,	7,026 or 23·2 "
In private asylums,	7,743 or 25·6 "

As regards the pauper insane, their mean proportion to the whole number of inmates in the different classes of asylums, for the six years 1856–61, was as follows :—

In the state asylum (Charenton),	24·8 per cent.
In departmental asylums,	86·6 "
In asylums belonging to the hospices,	88·6 "
In private asylums,	63·0 "

Of the whole number of the pauper insane at the end of 1860, 3-10ths were placed in asylums situated beyond the Departments to which the patients belonged.

II. *The Insane who are in Asylums :—their Number, Increase, Sex, Curability, etc.*

(a.) Their number and its increase since 1835.

The rate at which the increase of the number of the insane in asylums has taken place will be apparent from the following statement, which gives the whole number of the insane so disposed of on the 1st of January 1835 and 1836, and on the 1st of January every five years thereafter :—

	(1st January 1835,	10,539)	
1st Jan. 1836,	11,091		1st Jan. 1851, . . . 21,353
" 1841, . . .	13,887		" 1856, . . . 25,485
" 1846, . . .	18,013		" 1861, . . . 30,239

The total increase of patients in asylums during the 26 years is thus 19,700, or 187 per cent., and the average yearly increase is 750.

The rate of increase in each quinquennial period, if calculated on the number with which each period began, is a diminishing rate, but if calculated on the primitive or starting number it is an increasing one; in other words, the absolute yearly increase is greater during the later part of the period than during the earlier.

Calculations by the first method, showing a diminishing rate of increase, are as follows :—

Period of 1836–1841	give an annual increase of 5·04 per cent.
" 1841–1846	" " 5·94 "
" 1846–1851	" " 3·71 "
" 1851–1856	" " 3·87 "
" 1856–1861	" " 3·14 "

If the rate of increase, however, be calculated on the primitive or starting number, the results wear a different look, as will be seen from the following tabular statement :—

Period	Total Absolute Increase.	Yearly Absolute Increase.	Percentage of Increase on Starting Number.
1836-1841,	2796	559	5.0
1841-1846,	4126	825	7.4
1846-1851,	3340 ¹	668	6.0
1851-1856,	4132	826	7.5
1856-1861,	4754	950	8.6

There is still another way of looking at the rate of increase of asylum populations, that of calculating the yearly rate at successive periods of 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years, and this is exhibited below.

Period	Annual Rate of Increase,
1836 to 1841,	5.04 per cent.
1836 to 1846,	6.24 "
1836 to 1851,	6.16 "
1836 to 1856,	6.48 "
1836 to 1861,	6.68 "

We scarcely think the foregoing figures support M. Béhic's conclusion that the increase of asylum populations gives indications of an early arrestment.

(d.) Considered in relation to sex.

For the seven years, 1854-1860, the mean yearly proportion of the sexes was 51.9 women to 48.1 men, and the proportion varies little from year to year. It has been much the same, indeed, since 1842. Females are thus steadily in excess of males in the asylums of France (as of other countries); yet in the admissions the reverse holds good, 53 males being admitted for every 47 females. The greater mortality of males and their shorter average stay in asylums are adduced as facts accounting to some extent for the excess of females in the whole population.

When the *Idiots* are compared with the *Lunatics*,² it is found that the excess of females is entirely confined to the latter, and that among the former, viz., the idiotic, males are considerably in excess of females;—thus in 100 lunatics there are 40.76 males and 59.24 females, while in 100 idiots there are 51.22 males and 48.78 females. This is found to be the case in all countries.

(b.) Class of the insane of which the increase has chiefly consisted.

The insane in asylums are divided into three classes, Cretins, Idiots, and Lunatics.² During the last six years, 1856 to 1861,—the only ones for which we have a division into these classes,—the cretins have varied little and have not been numerous, averaging 42, or about 1 in 7000 patients. The idiots, however, constitute about 12 per cent. of the whole asylum population, and they have increased during the last six years by 32 per cent., while the increase of lunatics has been only 14 per cent. Of the total increase, however, lunatics form about 81 and idiots 19 per cent.

¹ The diminished increase during this quinquennial period is chiefly confined to the year 1849.

² We shall use *Lunatics* as synonymous with *Les Fous*, that is, as embracing all classes of the insane, except Idiots and Cretins.

(c.) Considered as curable or incurable.

The *lunatic portion* of asylum populations give, on an average, (for the years 1856-1860) 18·59 per cent. curable to 81·31 per cent. incurable. The two sexes are nearly alike. Four-fifths of *lunatics* in asylums, therefore, consist of the incurable.

The *idiotic portion*, again, of asylum populations yield only 4 per 1000 who can be tabulated as susceptible of amelioration.

For 1860 the entire population of the asylums gave 15·68 curable, and 84·32 incurable; and this is about the average for other years.

III. *The Insane in Private Dwellings, their Number, Form of Mental Disease, Sex, etc.*

The whole number of the insane in private dwellings was estimated

By the census of 1851	at	24,433
„ 1856	„	34,004
„ 1861	„	53,160

We have here an increase of 117 per cent. in ten years. Instead, however, of regarding this as real, it will probably be more correct to look on it as due to increasing care in taking the census.

Like those in asylums, the insane at home are divided into two classes, thus—

	1856.	...	1861.
Lunatics, . . .	11,714	...	15,264
Idiots, . . .	22,290	...	37,896
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total,	34,004	...	53,160

We learn from this that of the whole number of *lunatics* known to be in France, 35·75 per cent. were out of asylums in 1861, while of the whole number of *idiots* in the country, 91·26 per cent. were so disposed of.

Of the insane at home, the census of 1861 showed the sex, according to the form of mental disease, thus—

	Lunatics.	...	Idiots.
Males, . . .	7,220	...	21,636
Females, . . .	8,044	...	16,260
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total,	15,264	...	37,896

This yields the familiar result, viz., that among those labouring under the acquired forms of insanity, there are more females than males, while, among the idiotic, there are more males than females.

It is worthy of remark, that in France no special *care* is exercised by the state over the insane who are out of asylums, great though their number is.

IV. *Proportion of the Insane to the whole Population of the Country.*

(a.) The proportion of the *insane in asylums* to the whole population of France was—

In 1836,	.	.	1 in 3024
And in 1861,	.	.	1 in 1214.

During these twenty-five years the increase of the population was 9·47 per cent., and the increase of *the insane in asylums* about 172 per cent.

(b.) The proportion of *the whole number of the insane* (those out of, as well as those in asylums) to the population, was—

In 1851,	1 in 796
In 1856,	1 in 598
And in 1861,	1 in 444

(c.) Again, taking the insane as divided into *lunatics* and *idiots*, the two classes give the following proportions to the population—

	Lunatics.		Idiots.
In 1856,	1 in 1031	...	1 in 1430
And in 1861,	1 in 875	...	1 in 900

It is impossible to believe that this increase of the idiotic is in a strict sense real.

(d.) The census of 1861 distinguishes the sexes, as well as the form of disease, and gives these results—

Lunatics, 1 male for 915 males, and 1 female for 839 females in the population.
Idiots, 1 male for 796 males, and 1 female for 1034 females in the population.

Here again we have a preponderance of females among *lunatics*, and of males among *idiots*.

V. Total Number of Insane Persons known to be in France.

The three last estimates of the total number of insane persons known to be in France are as follows:—

	1851.		1856.		1861.
(1.) In asylums,	20,537	...	26,286	...	31,054
(2.) At home or in private dwellings,	24,433	...	34,004	...	53,167
Total,	44,970	...	60,290	...	84,214

As already stated, it is held to be probable that a great part of the increase in the number of those in private dwellings is due to a better taking of the census in the later of these years.

VI. Movement of the Population of Asylums.

(a.) Admissions and discharges—General results.

The total number of admissions into the asylums of France for seven years, from 1854 to 1860, was 68,992. Those who were discharged from or who died in the asylums amounted to 63,277. The admissions, therefore, were in excess of all discharges by 5715, or 815 per annum, so that increased asylum accommodation was needed every year for more than 800 patients. The average yearly increase of the population of the asylums for the last twenty-six years is 750.

The annual number of admissions has been an increasing one. The following statement, however, which refers to the four last years shows considerable steadiness:—

	Admissions.	Discharges.	Difference between Admissions & Discharges.	Pop. at end of year.
1857,	10,024	9301	723	27,028
1858,	10,314	9464	850	27,878
1859,	10,086	9203	883	28,761
1860,	10,785	9307	1478	30,239

The increase of the number of the insane in asylums appears thus to be due more to the excess of the admissions over discharges, than to an increase in the number of admissions; that is, it appears to be due to an accumulation of old cases, rather than to a growing production of insanity in the country.

(b.) The number of the insane annually treated in asylums.

This is arrived at by adding to the number in the asylums on the 1st day of each year the whole number of admissions during the year. The mean for seven years (1854-1860) thus estimated is 36,268.

It is of importance to know the nature of this estimate, as on it the French calculate the proportion of their cures, thus making their results, when compared with those of other countries, appear more unfavourable than they might be.

(c.) The mean annual population of asylums.

This is calculated in the following manner:—The number of days which each patient under treatment during the course of the year spends in the asylum are added together, and the sum is divided by 365. This gives a true mean population, and thus estimated, the mean number resident in asylums for the seven years, from 1854 to 1860, was 27,023. It is on this that the proportion of deaths is calculated.

In the course of making these calculations it comes out that the average stay of males in asylums is steadily shorter than that of females—the difference for *lunatics* being as 261 to 275 days.

VII. Admissions.

(a.) Their number and increase.

Ever since 1835 there has been a gradual increase in the number of admissions into asylums. Thus, in 1835 the admissions were 3947 against 10,785 in 1860, being an increase of 173 per cent. The rate of increase was not absolutely steady, though nearly so; thus, the admissions in 1840 were less than those in 1839, and the admissions both in 1848 and 1849 were less than those in 1847. It is deserving of remark, however, that during these years the increase of the whole population of asylums went on nearly as usual, showing the increase to be chiefly the result of an accumulation of old cases.

The rate of increase is described as diminishing. Thus the mean yearly admissions—

From 1840 to 1844	were	6441
„ 1845 to 1849	„	7530
„ 1850 to 1854	„	8975
„ 1855 to 1860	„	9959

This gives a proportional increase per annum—

From the first to the second period, of	3·38	per cent.
From the second to the third period, of	3·83	„
From the third to the fourth period, of	2·00	„

It is very doubtful, however, as already explained, whether this satisfactorily shows that the rate of increase in the admissions is falling in such a way as will lead to an early arrest of the growth of the population of asylums.

The increase of the admissions is thought to be due, in great measure, to the diminished prejudice as to the incurability of insanity, to the low rate charged by asylums, to the increased facilities of transmission, to the greater ease with which patients may be visited by their friends, to the introduction of the humane treatment of the insane, and to greater rigour on the part of the municipal authorities in causing the removal of the insane to asylums. With reference to this last, it is remarked that it is not only the maniac and furious lunatic who is now removed, but the dement, the idiot, and the imbecile.

(b.) Readmission of cases of relapse, and transfers from one asylum to another, and readmissions after escape.

Transfers from one asylum to another, and readmissions after escape, etc., are included in the total admissions. This often proves a source of confusion and trouble in comparing the lunacy statistics of one country with another. The total number of admissions for the five years, 1856-1860, was 50,455, and the number of transferences from one asylum to another was 4219, which are included in the total number of admissions. By excluding them, it is clear that we should seriously affect many calculations founded on the admissions.

It would appear that of 100 patients admitted, 77, on the average, are admitted for the first time, and 11 after relapse. Among these last there are more males than females, in the proportion of 102 to 100.

Most relapses occur during the first year after recovery. Thereafter they become more and more rare. The following table, dealing with the admissions after relapse between 1856 and 1860, illustrates this point:—

Readmitted in the 1st month after recovery,	.	.	.	468
„ in the 2d and 3d months „	.	.	.	499
„ in the 4th, 5th, and 6th months after recovery,	.	.	.	619
„ in the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th months after recovery,	.	.	.	973
			Total in 1st year,	2559
„ in 2d year after recovery,	.	.	.	874
„ in 3d year „	.	.	.	516
„ in 4th and 5th years after recovery,	.	.	.	619
„ in 6th, 7th, and 8th years „	.	.	.	431
„ in 9th, and above, „	.	.	.	508
			Total,	5507

It appears from this that 46·4 per cent. of relapses occur during the first year after recovery, 15·8 per cent. during the second, 9·3 per cent. during the third, and 28·3 per cent. after longer periods.

(c.) Admissions considered in relation to sex.

Between 1842 and 1860 inclusive, 86,326 males, and 76,825 females were admitted, or 112 males to 100 females. The disproportion held good every year of the whole period, but it varied from 105 to 121 males for every 100 females. This excess of males in the admissions goes against the opinion that the female is more liable to insanity than the male.

If the idiotic are dealt with separately, the excess of males over females is found to be still greater, as might be expected.

Though more males than females are steadily received into the asylums, it will be remembered that the actual population of these establishments always consists of more females than males.

(d.) Admissions considered in relation to age.

The average age of all patients admitted between 1856 and 1860 was, for males, 39 years 10 months, and for females, 41 years 9 months.

The numbers of *lunatics* admitted at different ages, when compared with the whole population of the country at corresponding ages, give as follows:—

		Males.		Females.
From 15 to 20 years,	...	1 in 8579	...	1 in 9387
20 to 30	"	1 in 3631	...	1 in 4415
30 to 40	"	1 in 2424	...	1 in 2980
40 to 50	"	1 in 2684	...	1 in 3346
50 to 60	"	1 in 3667	...	1 in 4004
60 to 70	"	1 in 4609	...	1 in 3866

These figures indicate that *lunacy* shows itself with comparative infrequency below the age of 20, and that it becomes more and more frequent from 20 to 40, having its maximum for both sexes between 30 and 40.

It appears further, from them, that at nearly all ages the males of the population furnish a larger proportion of admissions than the females.

(e.) Admissions considered in relation to marriage.

Lunatics admitted for the first time between 1856 and 1860, gave the following results:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Unmarried,	9545	7624	17,169
Married,	7731	6671	14,402
Widowed,	1327	2718	4,045
Condition unknown,	545	298	843

If we compare these with the numbers of the married, unmarried, and widowed in the general population, excluding all below 15 years, we have as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Males and Females.
Unmarried, 1 admission out of 2532	1 do. out of 2926	1 do. out of 2707	
Married,1 " " 4611	1 " 5314	1 " 4937	
Widowed, ...1 " " 3329	1 " 3191	1 " 3236	

The proportional number, therefore, of the unmarried received into asylums exceeds that of the married by nearly 50 per cent.

In weighing the value of this result it must be remembered that the unmarried, having fewer to care for them, are more likely to drift into asylums than the married, and also that it is possible that a latent and unexploded insanity may be a cause of celibacy, as well as celibacy a cause of insanity.

It is difficult at once to determine the true value of statistics like these, but it is certain that the collection of them will eventually lead to the discovery of many important truths, if they are cautiously and carefully brought together and handled in a philosophic spirit.

It would have helped to a safer conclusion as to the relation of marriage to the production of insanity, if we had also known the state, as regards marriage, of those of the insane who are not in asylums.

(f.) Admissions considered according to the months in which they occur.

Between 1856 and 1860 the admissions of *lunatics* were thus divided over the months of the year,—

Jan.,	7·38 per cent.	May,	9·04 per cent.	Sept.,	8·19 per cent.
Feb.,	7·44 "	June,	9·42 "	Oct.,	7·99 "
March,	8·46 "	July,	9·77 "	Nov.,	7·28 "
April,	8·92 "	Aug.,	8·77 "	Dec.,	7·34 "

July, therefore, gives the maximum and November the minimum, and the progression on each side is nearly equal and steady.

It is probable, that as the accumulation of facts goes on, we may be able to make more of this point than is presently possible.

(g.) Admissions considered in relation to the cause of the disease.

(1.) Heredity.—Of the 38,988 patients admitted between 1856 and 1860, no information was obtained regarding 8250. Deducting these, the remainder consisted of 28,621 *lunatics* and 2117 *idiots*.

Of the *lunatics*, 4056 had had either father or mother insane, or about 14·0 per cent.,—giving 13·5 per cent. for males, and 14·1 for females.

Of the *idiots*, hereditary predisposition was found in 260 or 13·0 per cent.,—giving 11·0 per cent. for males and 15·0 per cent. for females.

A more minute analysis is made for 1859 and 1860, but, here again, it has to be noted that the proportion of those about whom no information was obtained is excessively large—so large as seriously to affect the value of the conclusions to which the figures appear to lead.

They seem to show among other things that insanity is more readily transmitted from father to son and from mother to daughter, than from father to daughter or from mother to son. Thus the heredity established—

In 264 males	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 128 \text{ from the father,} \\ 110 \text{ from the mother,} \\ 26 \text{ from both parents,} \end{array} \right\}$	And in 266	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 100 \text{ from the father.} \\ 130 \text{ from the mother.} \\ 36 \text{ from both parents.} \end{array} \right\}$
was derived		females was	
in . . .		derived in	

(2.) Physical and moral causes.—Among *lunatics* physical causes greatly preponderate, yielding 60·7 per cent. as compared with 39·3

per cent. due to moral causes. This holds good in both sexes, but moral causes are proportionally more frequent among females.

The most prominent of the physical causes are senility, want, onanism, drunkenness, uterine disease, blows and falls, and epilepsy.

Among males, drunkenness is out of all sight the strongest cause, as it is in this country. It may be remarked here, that the recent introduction and use of spirit from Germany may possibly increase the injurious effects of alcohol among us. The German spirit, being distilled to a great extent from the potato (one of the solanaceæ), it has been thought that it may contain some principle analogous in its virtues to that of the belladonna, and some physicians in North Germany are inclined to think that potato spirit causes delirium tremens more readily than malt spirit.

Among females, uterine disease takes the first place among the physical causes of insanity.

The more important and prolific of the moral causes are domestic griefs and troubles, religious excitement, reverse of fortune, and disappointed ambition.

Of all the causes, physical and moral, alcohol is by far the richest,—and this in a country where the popular notion is that drunkenness is not common.

(h.) Admissions considered in relation to the duration of the disease at the time of admission.

Taking the figures from 1856 to 1860, we find the duration of the disease in the patients admitted to have been as follows:—

Less than 1 month in	17·4 per cent.
From 1 to 6 months in	26·9 "
" 6 to 12 months in	13·4 "
" 1 to 2 years in	11·1 "
" 2 years and upwards in	14·0 "

So that in more than a fourth of those patients admitted, regarding whom information on this point was obtained (26,471 out of 36,459), the disease had lasted for more than a year.

(i.) Admissions considered in relation to the complications of insanity.

Paralysis and epilepsy are the most important of these, and they appear respectively as 8·07 and 3·77 per cent. of *lunatics* admitted, and 1·87 and 9·40 per cent. of *idiots* admitted for the first time in the five years from 1856 to 1860. Both among paralytics and epileptics the proportion of males is higher than that of females.

Goitre appears as 0·26 per cent. of *lunatics* and 0·86 per cent. of *idiots* admitted for the first time; 3636 idiots and 54 cretins gave 32 goitres.

VIII. Cures, and Discharges from other Causes.

(a.) Their whole number, etc.

The following table gives the actual number of discharges for the seven years from 1854 to 1860:—

	Discharged cured.	Discharged from other causes.	Total Discharges.	Prop. per cent. of the Patients treated.
Males, . . .	10,099	8,768	18,867	15·08
Females, . . .	9,648	8,202	17,850	13·85
Totals,	19,747	16,970	36,717	14·46

It will be observed that these proportions are calculated on the numbers treated, that is—the number in the asylums on the first day of the year *plus* the admissions during the year.

The proportion of male exceeds that of female discharges, and this feature exists every year since 1842, and occurs alike among those discharged cured or not cured.

Of the patients treated, the average percentage annually discharged was 14·46, but this is sensibly less than it was in previous years, having been as high as 16·36 for the period between 1842 and 1853. It appears, indeed, on looking more minutely into the figures for the later periods, that the proportion of cures is steadily diminishing, and the proportion of discharges from other causes steadily increasing. The following table makes this apparent:—

	Percentage of whole number of Patients treated.	
	Discharged cured.	Discharged from other causes.
1854,	8·79	5·37
1855,	8·86	5·66
1856,	7·83	6·05
1857,	7·62	7·32
1858,	7·37	7·83
1859,	7·19	7·14
1860,	7·00	7·13
Average,	7·77	6·68

The nature of the “discharges from other causes than cure,” is disclosed in the following statement, which refers to the period from 1856 to 1860.

	Lunatics.	Idiots.
Escapes,	574	19
Transfers from one asylum to another,	4,238	447
Discharges improved, etc.,	7,251	690
Total discharges from other causes than cure,	12,063	1156

(b.) Cures in relation to sex.

Excluding idiots, the mean annual proportion of *lunatics* discharged cured, between 1856 and 1860, was for both sexes 8·24 per cent. of those treated; but for males alone it was 8·69, and for females alone 7·81, or about 1·9th less for females than males.

The greater frequency among males of disease referable to alcohol accounts in some measure for this result.

(c.) Cures according to the duration of treatment.

The figures from 1856 to 1860 show well the gradual diminution

of the chances of cure with the duration of treatment. Thus, of 100 cures (among *lunatics*),

37·66	take place after less than 3 months of treatment, or more than 1-3d
24·10	” 3 to 6 months of treatment, or . . . about 1-4th
11·28	” 6 to 9 ” . . . ” 1-10th
7·65	” 9 to 12 ” . . . ” 1-13th

So that 4-5ths of all cures occur in the first year of treatment, and there is little difference in this respect between the sexes.

(d.) Cures according to the months in which they are completed.

Summer and autumn give the larger, and winter and spring the smaller number—in the proportion of 54·7 to 45·3 per cent. July shows the highest figure and February the lowest.

(e.) Cures according to age.

If the ages of the cured are compared with the ages of the patients admitted between 1856 and 1860, we have the following results:—

The number of cured	
below the age of 15 years is 27·9 p. c.	of the number admitted below that age.
between 20 and 30 years is 46·6 p. c.	” between those ages.
between 30 and 40 years is 47·6 p. c.	” ”

After 40 there is a gradual and steady diminution. Idiots are excluded from this calculation.

(f.) Cures in relation to the cause of the disease.

Idiots are excluded here also. Of 13,687 *lunatics* cured, between 1856 and 1860, the cause of the disease is only given in 9789 cases, and these show that, of 1000 patients cured, in 536 the disease was due to physical, and in 464 to moral causes. It will be remembered that only 393 per 1000 of the admissions were due to moral causes, so that, in this class, the cures were relatively greater than in the class where the insanity was due to physical causes.

About one-half of all the cures which occur in the period and which have the cause of the disease assigned, are included in the subjoined statement.

Disease due to Drunkenness	in 1738 of the cures.
” Domestic griefs	in 1171 ”
” Various bodily diseases	in 761 ”
” Diseases peculiar to women	in 723 ”
” Religious excitement	in 460 ”

An hereditary predisposition to insanity was known to exist in 1522 of the patients cured, or in 15 per cent. of the *lunatics* cured.

IX. Deaths.

(a.) Their number and proportion to the mean population.

Between 1854 and 1860, that is during seven years, 26,560

patients died in the French asylums. These consisted of 14,532 males, and 12,028 females.

When compared with the mean population of the asylums for the period (estimated in the way described), this gives a percentage of deaths annually of 14·03. For the period 1842 to 1853, the percentage was 13·75; so that the rate of mortality has of late somewhat increased, and it has already been shown that the rate of cures has diminished.

During the last two years, 1859 and 1860, however, the death-rate has fallen, being 13·18 and 12·57 per cent. of the mean population.

The figures for the years between 1856 and 1860 separate the deaths in the two classes of the insane, and give 9·52 per cent. for *idiots*, and 14·05 for *lunatics*,—that is, in an equal population, 147 *lunatics* die for every 100 *idiots*.

(b.) Deaths according to sex.

The whole number of deaths consisted of 14,532 males and 12,028 females. This gives 16·02 males and 12·21 females per cent. of the mean population for each sex,—that is, for equal numbers of patients, the deaths of males are to the deaths of females as 131 to 100. Nearly the same proportions appear in the figures for the period 1842 to 1853. A similar excess of males appears in the deaths in French prisons.

It has been already shown that there are more females than males in asylums, in spite of the fact that more males than females are admitted. To some extent this is accounted for by the other facts disclosed, viz., that more males than females leave the asylum *cured, improved, and dead*.

(c.) Deaths according to length of treatment.

On this point the figures clearly speak (1856 to 1860). More than one-quarter of all the deaths occur among patients (*lunatics*) who have not been more than three months under treatment. Twelve per cent. of the deaths occur within one month after admission, about seven within two, and about six within three. Deaths soon after admission are more frequent among the male than among the female patients, being as 27 to 23 for the first three months.

(d.) Deaths according to the season of the year in which they occur.

Deaths among the insane in asylums vary in frequency with the different months of the year; but, in this respect, the influence of weather is the same on the insane as it is on the general population. Most deaths occur in winter and spring, and fewest in summer and autumn. July shows the minimum, and January the maximum.

(e.) Deaths according to age.

If the number of patients of each age under treatment each year

had been given, the ages of the patients at death would have been of more value than they can be without such information.

One thing we learn from the figures under this heading, viz., that *lunatics* and *idiots* may live to a ripe age. Thus, of 17,167 *lunatics* who died in the asylums between 1856 and 1860, 3976 were sexagenarians, or more than a fifth; while nearly 6 per cent. of the *idiots* who died were equally old.

The mean age at death for the two classes was as follows:—

		Lunatics.		Idiots.
Males,	.	46 years.	...	32½ years.
Females,	.	50¼ "	...	34½ "

In both classes females show the greater age. As regards the first class, it will be remembered that on admission the average age of males was 39 years 10 months, and of females 41 years 10 months, so that the average length of treatment of female *lunatics* dying in asylums is about two years more than that of male *lunatics*.

(f.) Deaths in relation to the cause of the insanity.

We have information on this point regarding 13,328 of the deaths which occurred between 1856 and 1860, and we find

Physical causes giving	8406	deaths among <i>lunatics</i>	(idiots excluded).
Moral causes giving	3703	"	"
Total,	12,109		

It has been shown that of 1000 *lunatics* admitted, 607 have their disease attributed to physical causes; and it now appears that of 1000 such patients dying, 694 have their disease referred to the same class of causes—a result which could have been anticipated.

Of the 12,109 deaths in the foregoing statement, 1534 were cases of senile dementia, 1268 were cases of insanity after the excessive use of alcohol, 1187 were complicated with epilepsy, 1131 were cases of insanity following various bodily diseases, 807 were cases in which domestic griefs and 683 cases in which want had led to the lunacy. This accounts for 6-10ths of the whole.

In 12 per cent. of all the 13,328 deaths an hereditary predisposition to insanity was established.

(g.) Deaths—accidental and self-inflicted.

For the seven years, 1854-1860, 87 accidental deaths and 116 suicides occurred in the asylums of France, or, annually, 12 deaths from accident and 16 from suicide.

Both in deaths from accident and in those from suicide, males are much in excess of females; thus,—

		Accidental Deaths.		Suicides.
Males,	.	57	..	71
Females,	.	30	..	45
Totals,		87		116

X. *Cost of Patients, Cost of Cultivating Land, Gratuities given to Patients who Work, Number of Workers, etc., in Departmental and other Asylums.*

The average daily cost of patients in the Departmental asylums for the seven years, 1854 to 1860, was 1 fr. 32 c., and it varied in different years from 1 fr. 25 c. to 1 fr. 39 c.¹

The total cost of the patients in these asylums has increased from nearly 5½ millions of francs in 1854 to nearly 7½ millions in 1860. The outlay is made up of three leading items; thus, for 1860—

Gratuities or recompenses to patients who work,	95,037 fr.
Expense of cultivating the ground,	156,938 fr.
Cost of maintenance, etc.,	7,099,223 fr.
	<hr/>
	7,351,198 fr. ²

The first item merits consideration in this country. In the Departmental asylums of France alone it has increased from 56,170 fr. in 1856 to 95,037 fr. in 1860. In the first year each of the workers had an average gratuity of 6 f. 79 c., and in the last 9 f. 19 c. Usually the gratuity is divided into two parts, the smaller being given to the patient to be spent by him on his own pleasure, and the larger being reserved and accumulated as a hoard to be given to him on his discharge.

The proportion of the patients occupied to the whole number of patients treated in all asylums is more than one-half, being about 55 per cent. for males, and 62 per cent. for females.

In the Departmental asylums, looked at separately, the proportion of workers is higher than it is in the asylums as a whole, being for both sexes 63 per cent. as an average for the last six years. It is among the workers in these asylums that the 95,000 francs were distributed as remuneration in 1860.

At present we discuss percentages of the occupied, but as occupation becomes more and more the condition of the whole population of asylums, we may eventually speak rather of percentages of the unoccupied. As occupation becomes more general, however, there are reasons for thinking that the dietary of the patients must be improved, if the mortality is to remain as low as it is at present.

¹ In 1860, the daily cost of patients chargeable to the Departments, wherever placed, varied:—

In departmental asylums, from	0 f. 75 c. to 1 f. 50 c.
In asylums belonging to the hospices, from	0 f. 77 c. to 1 f. 50 c.
In private asylums, from	0 f. 70 c. to 1 f. 15 c.

The highest charge was at the Hospice de Bicêtre, and the lowest at the private asylum of Clermont-Ferrand.

² The whole cost of lunacy in 1860 was about nine millions of francs.

Among the receipts of the Departmental asylums, figures one—the profit derived from the work of the patients. We are not told how this is estimated, or in what it consists, but it has risen from 247,582 fr. in 1856 to 414,039 fr. in 1860. During the same period, too, the profits from cultivation of land have been nearly doubled. These facts indicate progress in a direction which is very desirable.

XI. *Maintenance of the Insane Poor—its Sources, etc.*

About four-fifths of the insane in the asylums of France are paupers, in the sense of being supported by the public, and are either at the charge of the State, the Departments, the Communes, or Charitable Establishments.

On the 1st of January 1861, the whole number of the insane in asylums was 30,239, of whom 6071 were private and 24,168 pauper patients. Of the paupers, 411 were at the charge of the State, 155 at the sole charge of Communes, 71 at the charge of Charitable Establishments, and 23,531 at the charge of the Departments.

By the Law of the 30th of June 1838, which is that now in force, the Departments are specially charged with the maintenance of the insane poor, and the cost of doing this appears in the first section of their budget. But, by a combination analogous to that which secures relief to foundlings, the law imposes on the Communes and Hospices an obligation to share the cost with the Departments,—the pauperism of insanity being to some extent dealt with as a thing *sui generis*.

For 1860, in most of the Departments the proportion which the Communes were required to furnish towards the maintenance of their insane poor varied from 33 to 10 per cent., according to the wealth of the Communes.

In order to prevent the facility of throwing on the Departments the support of a large number of the ordinary poor, *under pretext of insanity*, some Departments impose on the Communes a higher contingent for the maintenance of *inoffensive* than for the maintenance of *dangerous* lunatics—in the richer Communes *one-half* of the cost of supporting the *inoffensive class* being defrayed by the authorities more strictly local. The contingent rarely exceeds one-half, but in the Seine-Inférieure it rises to 70 per cent. on the Communes, and, for special reasons, it is above 50 per cent. in four or five other Departments. These facts deserve the consideration of the framers of the Metropolitan Poor-Law Act.