

Turning from this strange character in the sad drama of life, we passed from alcove to alcove, until we were ushered into a spacious apartment furnished with a beautiful table, (the gift of one of the generous patrons of the Institution,) at which two graceful and accomplished gentlemen were amusing themselves at a game of billiards. You would have supposed that it was a contest for superiority between two gentlemen of wealth, who were endowed with all the accomplishments of polished life. And yet they were lunatics! How little would one have suspected that they were the confined inmates of an insane asylum, when he beheld the prompt suspension of the game, the graceful recognition of our presence, the polite salutation, even the surrender of the cues, with a courteous invitation to engage in the recreation, the calm placidity with which they mildly looked upon the attempts of their experienced performers, and the modest reception of the compliment upon their skillful exhibition of a knowledge of the game!

Passing from the contemplation of these wealthier inmates, the attention of your committee was next directed to the unfortunate patients from the various counties of the State, who were the recipients of their benevolent charity and protection. In the apartments set aside for this class of patients, the same scrupulous care for their comfort was visible, the same neatness of attire, and the same freedom from severity of treatment were equally apparent. Engaged in promenading along the corridors, or seated in their comfortable recesses, (for we cannot call them cells,) were to be seen the afflicted poor of our rural districts. Everything that was calculated to arouse the angry feelings of the patient, or fret his spirit by the exhibition of the implements of forcible restraint, was studiously and judiciously awarded. The ordinary bars that guard the windows of the prison-house were concealed by the net-work of wire, that shielded the apertures through which the bright beams of sunlight sparkled to banish the dreary gloom of the cell; no heavily bossed, cumbersome, or chained door, on grating hinges turning, shut in from human gaze the idiotic occupant.

Moving midst scenes like these, your committee could not withhold their admiration at the progress of science, the triumph of the profession, and the salutary benefits springing from the humane and milder system of modern times, which has banished the scourge, the chain, the cord, and all the cruel implements that formerly constituted remedial agents for the management of the disordered intellect. Within the walls of this cherished institution we beheld the silent and salutary workings of philanthropy. With physicians skilled in their profession and devoted to their charitable labors; with words of encouragement met by grateful