

from *experience*. Though I attended the meetings of the board, and visited the prison quite as frequently as any of my colleagues, (those of the executive committee excepted, whose duty it is to attend daily), it was nearly twelve months before I felt able to act understandingly on most of the important subjects submitted to the board; and hence, I think that frequent, or extensive, changes should not take place among the officers and agents of the institution, if to be rightfully avoided. We have, ourselves, acted on this principle. Though not entirely without cause of complaint against one or two of the officers under our charge, we preferred remonstrance and admonition to dismissal. We found these amply sufficient, and the experience of the persons alluded to was retained for the benefit of the establishment. Among the deputy keepers no change took place in the last two years,—unless in consequence of voluntary resignation: the physician was, indeed, the only officer or agent affected by an act of the board, and this change took place in consequence of what seemed to be long established principle, that worthy young medical gentlemen should succeed one another every two years, to help them a little forward in establishing themselves in their honourable, but arduous profession. The conduct of the late physician was satisfactory; and that of the present incumbent is entirely approved in the extraordinary good health of the prisoners, and the brief confinement of the sick in the hospital—for, though the average number of the prisoners, for the year past, has amounted to about 340 persons, the hospital reports do not shew an average of more than four, exclusive of certain individuals whose diseases were of a fixed or permanent character, and which they had chiefly incurred before their reception by us. When it is recollected that the number of the convicts is mainly made up of the most dissolute and depraved classes of society, the general state of their health is highly honourable to the keeper and the physician. It is manifest, that they have wholesome diet and good treatment. I have often visited the hospital, alone, inquiring of each of the sick into the nature of his disease, and what were his wants, and have heard, with no small degree of emotion, the almost expiring breath of a dying man, expended in blessings on the keeper for the tenderness and care with which he