

by which they may be removed to the Maryland Hospital. It is fact well authenticated by the statement furnished by the Maryland Hospital and other similar institutions, set apart for the purpose of Lunatic Asylums, that in the vast majority of cases placed under treatment, cures have been effected, and the patient restored to his accustomed avocations, thereby relieving the State from a continued demand for his support—when, on the other hand, it is equally true, that in the entire absence of proper treatment in Alms-Houses and the like establishments, that the patient there confined, seldom fails to continue in the same deplorable condition till relieved by death. When properly treated, as can only be accomplished by the care and attention administered in a Lunatic Hospital, the failure to cure constitutes the exception to the rule, and when differently situated, the cure, becomes the exception.

It would, therefore, be manifestly a saving to the counties and cities, if this would pay the additional sum required for all these advantages, for a brief period, rather than by practising a false economy for temporary considerations, create a burden which time increases far beyond what might be demanded for a single year, or frequently even for a less time. Your committee whilst in the discharge of their duty, in order to contrast the condition of the pauper lunatics in the various Alms-Houses in the State, with the provision made for them in the Maryland Hospital, visited the Poor House of Baltimore city and county. They there found, that, notwithstanding the praise justly due to the admirable management with which it is conducted, that the want of proper attention to the lunatic department is very apparent. All those appliances so peculiarly requisite for the restoration of dethroned reason, are denied; the limited number of apartments requiring that several should be crowded in the same cell, the means of successful treatment not within the reach of medical attendants. The able and eloquent appeal made by the attendant physician of the Baltimore Alms House, (Dr. Robinson,) with a view to enlist the attention of the public to the importance of establishing a State Lunatic Assylum, contains abundant evidence, gathered from experience, that unless other provision is made for them than is furnished at present, nearly all hope of recovery is lost.

Your committee is inclined to believe, that their unhappy condition is even worse in other portions of the State, where they are confined in county Alms-Houses and common jails, where poor misfortune is doomed to feel the lash of vice.

Your committee do not, however, propose to make it obligatory on the counties to adopt the plan proposed. They sincerely hope, however, that the State herself may be prepared to lend her aid, and that it may be placed within the reach of every section of the State to avail themselves of the benefit.

Your committee in closing their report, desire once more to call