

The report of the Mount Hope Hospital is before your Honorable Body, Dr. Stokes' sensible and eminently practical remarks, occupying the 22nd, 33rd and 24th pages, merit repeated and careful perusal. Dr. Ray states in the Report of the Butler Hospital, for 1851, "that the increasing prevalence of insanity cannot be denied;"—"of the causes which appear, in answer to our earnest inquiries, we cannot speak in detail, but there is much in our political, religious, and social usages,—calculated to disturb the balance of the mental powers, and prepare the way for unequivocal insanity;—also the eagerness, the hurry, the vehemence which constitute such prominent traits in our national character, produce a morbid irritability of the brain, but a single remove from overt disease." "The gross neglect of correct family education and discipline, and the neglect of the moral powers—those which guide the passions and determine the motives, is the crowning defect of the education of our times, ruinous in its consequences to the health both of the body and of the mind." I am compelled to omit the pages which follow these remarks; rich and strong in wisdom and truth; they are, so to say, a code of sound instructions which all need to study with care and reflection.

In adverting to one very fruitful cause of cerebral disease, I find no little difficulty, but shall adduce one example, which I might follow with a thousand, to show the *wickedness and ill-consequences of the intermarriage of blood-relations*. In a community composed of 300 families, 34 heads of families were known to be nearly allied by the ties of consanguinity. There were born to these parents ninety-five children, of whom 44 were idiotic, 12 scrofulous, 1 was deaf, and 1 was a dwarf. In one family of 8 children, 5 were idiots. Not one of the 95 could be called perfectly sound in body and mind.

Increase of insanity amongst the younger classes of society, furnishes another argument for early treatment of the malady, before disease has fastened for life, on its victim. The public safety, equity, economy and lastly humanity, require adequate, appropriate provision for the insane before the malady assumes a chronic character, and the hapless being becomes a life care to his friends, or a heavy burthen upon the public. Every man and woman possessed a sound health is wealth to the State; every individual diseased and disabled is a draft, both directly and indirectly, on its riches and prosperity. It is *cheaper to cure than it is to support*, even at the very lowest rates. I ask to show you, by positive estimate, results reached by examining, collating, and contrasting accounts gathered with careful labor.

In the Hospital at Staunton, Va., in 1842, twenty

old cases had cost	\$41,633 00
Average expense of old cases,	2,081 65
Whole expense of curing twenty recent cases,	1,265 00
Average expense of curing these cases,	63 25