

ishment? Whilst she has the undoubted right to incarcerate the culprit, she certainly has not the right to destroy his health or his life, unless so far as may be absolutely necessary to carry out the intention and requirements of her discipline. The health of the poor culprit is, in the great majority of cases, his only dependence when he shall have left these walls. If this is taken from him, his all is gone.

This truly repugnant object is, however, to a great extent accomplished, when prisoners are required to spend a very large portion of their time, as they are here, in such low, damp, dark cells. Many reach the place with fine, robust constitutions, but soon find them giving way from being thus confined. They are then removed to other it may be less objectionable cells, and their places supplied by others, equally as healthy as they were in the beginning, who in their turn must also be removed for similar reasons. Many of these cells are becoming damper and damper, and are, at present, totally unfit for any human being to live in. Some twenty-five well persons are nightly crowded into the hospital with the sick—in a room, indeed, already too small for wholesome ventilation, for the number of sick now confined therein.

There is, moreover, little or no light afforded to the different cells. This is certainly a great defect. Every prisoner should have light enough, from the general lighting up of the building, to allow him to read. And every prisoner ought to be provided with good religious books. The mind is ever active, and if not employed in good, it will be in devising evil. Your committee would, therefore, recommend that the State provide a suitable library, for this degraded class of her citizens. They believe that their private meditations over good and religious books would very much assist the efforts of those pious ministers and christian ladies who have been laboring so assiduously for their reformation. And in order to promote, still more successfully, a system of religious training and instruction among them, they recommend that a suitable chapel and chaplain be provided for them, where the Word of God shall be regularly dispensed to them every Sabbath, at least, aided by pious counsel. Whilst we take great pleasure in testifying to the spirit of subordination and good order, which seemed every where to prevail, and the sufficiency of wholesome food with which they appeared to be provided, we greatly fear their spiritual interest have been very much neglected. In this we mean, by no means, to disparage the very praiseworthy efforts, made by the classes of persons already alluded to. On the contrary, we believe the christian community owes them a great debt of gratitude; but we believe there should be some one to stand regularly between the officer and the prisoner—one who would be able to gain his confidence and love. Who so fit for such a position as the Minister of Christ?