

usually in an acute condition, for so much time is spent in legal formalities and waiting for trial, that a prisoner has opportunity to recover from the acuteness of his attack.

Looking from the windows on a fine bright day, one sees the men walking about the gardens or working in the little plots of ground provided for those who display a predilection for horticulture. This is one of the special features of Broadmoor, that each patient who wishes to can have his own little garden, which he tends himself and no one else touches. Each patient in the asylum can work at any task he chooses and, if it be remunerative, he has one-eighth part of the resulting profit to spend as he likes; thus, one inmate works at shoemaking and earns a pound a week. Of this he gets half-a-crown, with which he buys jam and other luxuries for tea.

Another feature of Broadmoor is that each patient has a separate sleeping apartment, there being but a very few dormitories. These little bedrooms, save in the case of the more dangerous cases, are furnished with comfort and taste by the occupant himself. Patients can, if they wish, sit in their rooms during the day, their privacy being only spoiled by the observation slit beside the door by which the attendant can command a view of the whole apartment.

In the centre of the male block is a neat and roomy chapel, in which services are held for such of the inmates as are fit to attend; there is, besides, a Roman Catholic chapel, and a Wesleyan service is held once a fortnight. Under the chapel is a recreation room, with a convenient *bijou* theatre. Here dances, concerts, etc., are frequently held. The decorations are the work of a former patient, and both the pictures which hang on the walls and the proscenium of the theatre are of quite a high order, and display much natural talent and not a little archaeological knowledge.

Through immense kitchens sufficient to cook for the six hundred and odd patients, and a bakery capable of baking the bread supply of an army, one passes through a grim nail-studded door to cross the road and enter the female block. Here are more kitchens and a fine laundry, where certain of the inmates work, but are not allowed to do more than ordinary hand washing, the fine equipment of machine washers, centrifugal wringers, etc., being worked by the staff only. Adjoining is a commodious drying cupboard, where clothes can be dried by means of hot air.

In the main building, one finds the same system of corridors and apartments as in the male block. If there is any difference, it is that the women take more interest in the decoration of their little rooms than do the men. In a cheerful music-room the patients are able to organise for

themselves little concerts and dances, formal "balls" being held in the male block at stated intervals. In gardens similar to those already mentioned, the inmates sit, walk, or work. It is interesting to note that, whereas the male patients turn their attention chiefly to vegetables, the opposite sex devote their tiny gardens mostly to the cultivation of flowers.

The sick wards at Broadmoor are more cheerful than many hospitals, and quite as well equipped. Death, however, is a rare visitor to Broadmoor, the healthiness of its site and the tranquil life led by the inmates resulting in a death-rate of only one-half per cent.

It is difficult to describe the impression of brightness and comfort that the asylum imparts to a visitor. It is frequently urged that the human animal is, after all, but a creature of circumstance—the flotsam and jetsam drifting upon the floods and ebbs of tides, or whither the wind may drive it—the mere victim of predispositions and heredity. Within reasonable limits allowance must be made for such factors and influences, but far more must it be so in dealing with inexplicable and unreasoning passions permitted to pass beyond control. These, feeding upon themselves, madden to a degree which, in the calm, unbiassed light of a judgment of more stable quality, it is difficult to make allowance for. To such judgments (instances of jealousy frequently wholly unfounded), developed to an insane degree of mistrust, of personal dislike and prejudice worked up to a point of frenzy, are difficult of understanding. Yet such instances must be familiar to all, and it is these cases, when they pass a certain limit, and incite to the commission of a crime, together with those persons whose brains are ruined by drink or drugs, that contribute most largely to make up the number of those incarcerated in Broadmoor.

The study of crime is always sad, that of the criminal lunatic is sadder still. A sad side there is and always must be to any institution for the care of the insane, and, from its penal nature, one expects to find in Broadmoor an additional sadness and grimness. One is, however, agreeably surprised, and one leaves with a feeling of satisfaction that the unfortunates whose only real crime is a want of mental balance, are so well tended and cared for.

The above article which, we feel sure, will be read with much interest, is on a subject of which comparatively little is known, but which, nevertheless, is of great importance. We shall be glad to consider any contributions upon other asylums which may be submitted to us, with a view to publication.

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