

HOSPITALS. suggestions were subsequently carried out by the governors.

Liverpool Lunatic Hospital.

The report upon the condition of the Liverpool hospital made at the last visit, will be found of a much more favourable character than has hitherto been the case. The clothing of the patients was improved, and the demeanour of the less favourable class was found to be more decent and orderly. The cheerfulness of the wards had been much increased by painting, papering, and colouring throughout. New carpeting and kamptulicon had been laid down, much new furniture introduced, and new bath-rooms, waterclosets, and lavatories constructed.

The effect of these changes upon the patients will no doubt prove most beneficial, and be likely to attract a more remunerative class than has hitherto been sent here; we trust, however, that this improved state of the hospital will not tend to induce the governors to look upon it as perfect, but rather encourage them to extend its sphere of usefulness by building in a different locality.

Bethlehem Hospital (branch establishment at Witley).

The branch establishment in connection with Bethlem Hospital, referred to in our twenty-third Report, has been completed.

It is situate at Witley, near Godalming, and is calculated to accommodate 40 convalescent or quiet cases. The question as to whether this building should be registered as a separate hospital, or should be regarded only as a branch of the present hospital, and subject to the various legal obligations affecting the parent institution, being one of so novel a character, and not provided for in the Lunacy Acts, we suggested to the governors the expediency of taking counsel's opinion on the subject. A case was accordingly drawn up and submitted to Sir Richard Baggallay and Mr. Wickens, who came to the conclusion that for the purposes of the Lunacy Acts, the Witley establishment must be considered as separate from Bethlem Hospital, and that nothing short of an Act of Parliament would enable the governors to use the building at Witley as a branch of the hospital. The governors thereupon decided upon applying to Parliament for the necessary powers to enable them to work the convalescent establishment as a part of the parent institution.

ROYAL ALBERT ASYLUM, Lancaster.

The Royal Albert Asylum for idiots and imbeciles of the seven northern counties was registered as a hospital in August last, and a limited number of male patients were received

received in the December following. The site, about 67 acres in extent, is elevated, and commands cheerful and extensive views. The building was originally designed for 500 patients, and is expected ultimately to afford proper space for 600. At present the centre portion and southern wing of it are alone completed and furnished, and the northern wing is not expected to be finished before the end of the year. The style of architecture is Gothic, with a handsome central tower; the material employed being the light-coloured freestone of the district, the inside walls being of brick, with a space between to ensure dryness and equability of temperature. Internally the rooms are spacious, cheerful, and well-ventilated, and the general plan of the building appears to be admirably adapted for its purpose.

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By the unwearied exertions of Dr. De Vitre and the committee, nearly 78,000 *l.* has been raised, upwards of 54,000 *l.* of which was contributed to the building fund by the seven northern counties, viz., Lancashire, Yorkshire, Westmorland, Durham, Cheshire, Cumberland, and Northumberland; 10,000 *l.* was paid for the site, and a sum of nearly 15,000 *l.* has very wisely been set apart as a "sustentation fund." Patients (not paupers) are proposed to be admitted on the free list for a term of seven years, the number received from the several counties being in proportion to the amount raised respectively in each. Paupers will also be received by special arrangement with the guardians of parishes to which they belong, and patients belonging to the seven northern counties whose parents are in narrow circumstances, and unable to afford the full payment of 50 guineas, will be received at a reduced payment of 20 guineas a year. From the full payment of 50 guineas the rates vary, according to the accommodation required, to 100, 150, and 200 guineas a year. Cases of epilepsy are, as a rule, ineligible for admission; and in the selection of patients, the prospect of their deriving benefit from the system of training and education employed is properly made one of the first matters for the consideration of the committee.

This important institution will no doubt effectually supply a want long felt in the north of England; and showing, as it so strongly does, how much may be accomplished by individual energy, we are not without hope that similar efforts may be made in other districts to provide for the care and training of idiots.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act 23 & 24
0.70. F 3 Vict. STATE CRIMINAL ASYLUM.