

*The Asylum Cottage at the Paris Exhibition.*

ONE of the most interesting objects which is to be seen at the great show on the Champ de Mars, and one which must possess peculiar attractions to members of our profession, is the beautiful little cottage which is exhibited by Baron Mundy. It is situated in a prominent part of the Austrian section of the space external to the great building. The various gables with their overhanging eaves give a comfortable homelike aspect to the cottage, which is enhanced by the pretty little garden-plot in front. On the walls of the two principal apartments are displayed large plans and drawings illustrating the system of colonisation which Baron Mundy specially advocates.

According to his idea of a model asylum, the majority of the patients should be accommodated in groups of five in the houses of married attendants, and each group of five such cottages should be under the supervision of a head attendant. A coloured drawing, which is hung on one of the walls, represents the arrangement of buildings for an asylum to accommodate 300 patients. One half would be provided for in a central hospital, and the other half would reside in the cottages. In the centre are situated the hospital, the buildings connected with general superintendence, the chapel, and the residence of the medical superintendent, which is intended also to accommodate forty higher class patients. The surrounding space is occupied by the cottages and their several patches of farm or garden. There are also residences for their assistant medical officers, who, like the medical superintendent, are expected to receive private patients, though in much smaller number. The extra mural portion of the colony would thus consist of thirty ordinary cottages, each containing an attendant, his family, and five patients; six cottages for head attendants, in which patients would only be temporarily accommodated, the usual village workshops and stores, and the residences of three medical men. The quantity of land which is proposed as sufficient for the requirements of the system is 100 hectares; and Baron Mundy estimates that the average price of suitable land would be about 2000 francs the hectare, or £8000 for the whole, and that 1,000,000 francs, or £40,000 would cover the expense of everything. The original expense per head would thus be about £133. The expense of management would, however, according to the Baron's estimate, be a very slight burden upon the public.

The model cottage which is exhibited illustrates what is proposed as the residence of a head attendant. It consists of two parts, one in which the family of the attendant would reside, and consisting of a parlour, bedroom, and kitchen, the other would be kept for patients, and consists of bedroom, bathroom, and padded room. It is probable that the latter half of the house would only be occasionally inhabited, as it would be chiefly used as a temporary abode for new cases, where they might be watched prior to removal to their more permanent home. It would also be useful on occasions where more than ordinary difficulty might be experienced in treating any case in a neighbouring cottage.

The rooms of the cottage are furnished in the manner of south Germany, and are models of neatness. The walls are covered with plans and drawings illustrative of Baron Mundy's views. Among others a large map of the commune of Gheel may afford useful information to many visitors. The space which is not occupied by maps and drawings is devoted to quotations from sixteen different authors who have written about the colonisation of the insane, or on subjects bearing upon their treatment. The following may be taken as examples:

"The reform gloriously begun by Pinel is still incomplete, in so far as sequestration oversteps the necessary requirements of public security. The insane person is not really treated as a patient; he remains a prisoner suffering from disease."—JULES DUVAL, *Gheel*.

"The system to be employed in future in the treatment of the insane is incontestably the family system."—PROFESSOR GRIESINGER.

"I say, and I repeat what I said fifteen years ago, there is no asylum which is worth a good colony, and there is no country in which the insane may not be colonised."—M. MOREAU DE TOURS.

We have much pleasure in noticing this contribution to philanthropy; for, whatever may be the differences of opinion among us as to the best mode of providing for the insane, none can help admiring the disinterested devotion which has prompted Baron Mundy to spend so much time, money, and labour, in advocating what he believes to be for the good of the insane.

### *An Unlicensed Asylum at Aldringham.*

(*Suffolk Summer Assizes, 1867.*)

FREDERICK WILLIS HONE MILBURN was charged with having received James Alexander Barnes and boarded and lodged him as a lunatic at his house, at Aldringham, without having the necessary licence authorising him to do so.

Mr. O'Malley and Mr. Metcalfe appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Milburn was defended by Mr. Naylor, instructed by Mr. H. K. Moseley.

Mr. O'Malley, in opening the case, said the prosecution was instituted by the Commissioners in Lunacy. In former times there were facilities for shutting people up in asylums, and they could be kept shut up; but the law now provided that people of unsound mind should be kept in places to which the Commissioners in Lunacy should always have access, in order that they might, by periodical visits, satisfy themselves that the patient was a fit person to be an inmate of a lunatic asylum. It was of the utmost importance that a lunatic should be kept in a place where others besides the private medical man, who might be consulted by the parties who sent the lunatic, could see

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\* In his charge to the grand jury the Lord Chief Justice made the following observations on this case:—

"There is one more case of considerable importance, and that is the case of Mr. Milburn, who is indicted for receiving a lunatic not having complied with the Act. You are aware that the law is stringent on this point, and that there are Acts of Parliament which make it penal to receive a person who is a lunatic into any hospital, or any place not licensed, or without a certificate of a medical man certifying that the patient is insane, such law being necessary for the protection of those who are lunatics, and also for those who are not; in order that those who are not lunatics may not be subjected to duress. It is also necessary in order that those persons who have the misfortune to be insane may have all the protection given them which in point of law the legislature has wisely provided for them; therefore, if it should be proved to your satisfaction that the defendant has received a patient without complying with the Act of Parliament, it will be your duty to send up the bill. It may turn out that the party has been properly treated, but even in that case it will be your duty to find a true bill; for this law provides that certain requisitions shall be satisfied and certain formalities complied with as conditions precedent to the admission of any person into a lunatic asylum, and therefore if it turns out that this man was received without certificates, and into a place not licensed as the law requires, the keeper of the house will be liable to the penalties of the law upon the facts being proved."