

come. Its excellences will be perceived. Its adaptability to the wants of mankind will be recognized. It will gather to it noble men and women from every land and every class. And it will march forth, conquering and to conquer, in peaceful and lawful power, to supply every spiritual, social, political and material human need, and prepare the way for the ultimate overthrow of false creeds, societies and systems, and the reign of righteousness and truth, of universal brotherhood, union and peace.

### A TALE OF CRUELTY.

THE dispatches lately included one from Chicago, giving details of horrible cruelty practiced in an insane asylum in that city. The facts relating to one case, that of a robust patient who was treated with such inhuman barbarity that he died within ten days after entering the institution, were brought to light by a reporter of the *Chicago Times*. Rumors had been current regarding the inhumanity practised upon the patients. Inquiring reporters had visited the asylum in their professional capacity, but were treated courteously and the institution was shown them in its dress parade condition. The enterprising scribe of the *Times* was determined to get at the real facts, and for this purpose feigned insanity, was arrested, was examined or tried by Judge E. H. Gary, in the county court, and sent to the asylum. The reporter was placed in the same room as a man named Burns, the one who died from maltreatment. In substance the following is the story, as it appeared in the *Chicago Mail* of April 29th:

"Burns was brought to the detention hospital Tuesday night, April 9. The reporter for the *Times* who investigated the detention hospital and Jefferson asylum, was at the former institution under the name of Charles Hunter when Burns was admitted and was with Burns for two days in the hospital. They were consigned to the same ward at the asylum, and were put together in a little room containing only two cots. For a week they were room-mates.

"Every night during this period the reporter made Burns his special charge. When bed-time was announced he would go to Burns, take him to their room and assist him in undressing. In the morning he would aid the poor fellow in putting on his clothes. He did this because he understood the man and because he had reason to believe that his room-mate would be beaten if the attendants performed the duty.

At no time was Burns violent in

any way. Neither did he ever resist the attendants. Even when they beat him the resistance of self-preservation which nature would ordinarily inspire was not equal to that an infant would have made under the same circumstances.

After they had been examined by Drs. Kiernan and Shubert, Robert Burns, the reporter, and another patient were taken to ward D. W. Z. This is the hospital ward of the asylum and is supposed to contain those patients who, in addition to their insanity, are not physically well. There were eighty-four patients in the ward at that time and the new arrivals made the number eighty-seven. During the day the inmates sit in a narrow hall about 180 feet long. At each side of the hall are settees like those ordinarily seen in the waiting-rooms at a depot. When the new arrivals entered the eighty-four men present were sitting on the settees or walking up and down the hall. All day long the patients tramp to and fro along this hall, some mumbling the mad mouthings of maniacs, some with their heads down, feebly tottering with trembling limbs, some walking briskly for exercise. For a few moments the strangeness of the scene and the crowd of men confused even the clear-headed reporter. He could only appreciate the general effect, but could not analyze the details. Is it any wonder that Burns was also confused?

Immediately after the three new patients had entered the ward Burns was ordered to sit down. He stared blankly at the attendant and started to walk along the hall. He was pushed violently by Attendant Croghan, who said: "—damn you, sit down." After looking around in a vague and helpless way for a moment he arose again, but had only taken a few steps when Attendant Richardson seized him and flung him down on the settee. At least twenty-five or thirty other patients were pacing the hall and there was no reason why Burns should be compelled to sit still. After Richardson had flung him on the settee Attendant Croghan returned and, shaking his clenched fist in the man's face, he said: "You sit there, you ——— or I'll break every bone in your ——— body. ——— you."

It is quite certain that Burns did not comprehend a word said to him and that he did not know what he was expected to do. His only sensation at that time was fear. He started to walk again when Attendant Richardson ran after him, caught him by the collar from behind and flung him on his back and kicked him as he lay on the floor. When Burns got up Richardson, who is a large man weighing 200 pounds or more, kicked him in the stomach, knocking him backward upon one of the settees. Attendants Croghan, Richardson and Pitcher then pounced upon him and pounded him. All of this time the poor fellow only said, "Oh, oh, oh!"

Then, although it was not the hour for such duties, Croghan decided that he would dress a sore on

the man's left leg. A loose-jointed fellow named Billy rushed to the scene and also struck Burns, while a muscular patient named Phillips held one of his hands and beat him about the shoulders. The Billy referred to is an overgrown boy of 19 who has been an inmate of the asylum for five years. He is a simpleton, but is permitted by the attendants to beat the patients.

In order to dress the sore on Burns' leg it was thought necessary to remove his heavy shoe. This was done, and the poor fellow, not knowing what was coming, began to moan. Croghan used the vilest language imaginable, and finally jumped on the bench beside Burns and kicked him in the side until it seemed the man's ribs would surely be broken. While Croghan kicked him in the side Richardson kicked him in the stomach. A powder was put on the man's leg and he winced like one in pain. Croghan then picked up his heavy shoe and struck Burns on the head with the heel. One blow cut a gash nearly two inches long, from which the blood poured freely. Croghan then ordered Simpleton Billy to bring a bucket and a large sponge. The settee was covered with blood and even the floor was stained with the fluid that had spouted from Burns' head. A few moments afterward a chair was placed in the center of the hall and Burns was forced into it. Croghan then cut the hair immediately around the wound on the head and dressed it with a salve and a cloth.

The next morning Burns was again seized and the wound in his head dressed. Croghan took a roll of bandages and made a skullcap, which entirely covered the man's head and concealed the wound. Burns wore this cap day and night for nearly a week.

Burns had no desire for food and had to be led into the dining room when the meals were ready. The dining room was furnished with rude benches and the inmates were obliged to sit wedged so close together that they could hardly move. The strong patients would rush in first and by the time Burns came the seats would be full. It became necessary for him to mount a bench and crowd his way in. This would cause him to hurt his leg and he would hesitate. The hesitation was always sufficient provocation for blows. Twice the reporter took Burns to the dining room and led him to a seat in advance of the crowd. Upon these occasions Burns ate heartily.

The simpleton Billy struck Burns nearly every day. After the first dressing the man's leg was neglected for nearly a week. One day some thirty-five of the patients were taken out walking under the charge of Attendant Richardson. The reporter was with them. When he returned he found Burns stretched on the cot in their little room and Croghan was dressing his leg. The reporter did not enter the room but took special pains to walk past the open door. Croghan called Simpleton Billy and Richardson. All