

authority should be given to recognise a home, or the money should be returned. "After care" was needed; outgoing convalescents were often assisted by the liberality of nurses. He remarked that a banking account had been opened—Union Bank, Argyll Street—and that some subscriptions were unpaid. He moved the resolution: "That it is desirable to recognize the principle of forming a distinct Home for the reception of females discharged 'cured' from lunatic asylums."

Eventually it was proposed by Rev. FREDK. HALL, and seconded, "That the report of the Treasurer, viz., 'That the estimated expense of a "Home" for four beds would be £300, of which amount five-sixths is either in hand or already promised,' leads this meeting to the belief that the time has now arrived for taking steps for actual work without further delay. That the under-mentioned be appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the practicability of the above resolution, and to report to a general meeting of this Society."

After votes of thanks to Dr. Savage and Dr. Ogle, the meeting separated.



#### *Obituary.*

##### DR. EDWARD JARVIS,

An Honorary Member of the Association, was born in Concord, Mass., January 9th, 1802. He graduated at Harvard in 1826, and took his degree in medicine in 1830. He practised medicine two years in Northfield, Mass., five in Concord, Mass., and five in Louisville, Kentucky, with but moderate success. His tastes inclined him to the study of mental science and anthropology, and he lacked confidence in the effects of his remedies. He was early interested in the cause of education, and started public libraries in Concord and Louisville.

In 1836, while at Concord, he received an insane young man from Cambridge into his house for treatment, and, in a few months, he was well. Several other patients were afterwards received, and he thus became interested in the treatment of insanity, which specialty he resumed at his home in Dorchester, and continued for many years successfully. Dr. Jarvis was disappointed several times in obtaining the superintendency of certain insane asylums in Massachusetts, for which positions he brought the highest recommendations, and for which his tastes strongly inclined him. He felt these disappointments keenly, but was not deterred from pursuing his favourite studies as far as possible in the community at large.

He removed to Dorchester, Mass., in 1843, where he remained until his death. At about the time of this removal, his attention was directed to the apparently excessive amount of insanity among the free coloured population of the North, as indicated by the United States census of 1840. This excess had been used by Southern statesmen in Congress to show the probable effect of emancipation on the negro. Dr. Jarvis showed that the census was grossly in error in this respect. His aid was solicited in the preparation of the census of 1850, and, without official authority, he gave one-third of his time for three years to perfecting the reports. In 1874 Government acknowledged his claim by paying for his services. He was again employed on the censuses of 1860 and 1870, and became the leading authority on vital statistics, and was recognised as such at home and abroad.

In 1854 he was made a member of the Lunacy Commission to inquire into the number and condition of the insane in Massachusetts, and the Northampton Hospital was erected in consequence of their recommendations.

In 1843 he became a member of the Corporation of the School for Idiots in

Boston, and in 1849 was appointed physician to the Institution for the Blind. He continued to be associated with Dr. S. G. Howe in the supervision and care of those two institutions for many years, his services being largely gratuitous.

In 1860 Dr. Jarvis visited Europe, where he travelled extensively in charge of an insane gentleman of wealth, who was accompanied by his family. He was commissioned a delegate to the International Statistical Congress in London, where he made the acquaintance of many distinguished foreign physicians and scientists. He was chosen one of the two vice-presidents on that occasion. He visited a large number of the hospitals, insane asylums, and prisons in England, forming an acquaintance with Sir James Clark, Florence Nightingale, and other philanthropists of the period. The private insane asylums, of which there were one hundred and thirteen, especially interested him, on account of the comparative absence of restraint, and the home-like appearance of the old mansion houses which had been re-modelled for the care of the insane. On his return from Europe, he opened correspondence, and established exchanges, with many foreign statisticians.

In 1874 his labours were suddenly arrested by a stroke of paralysis. He remained in comfortable health, however, till October 20th, 1884, when a second attack occurred, which terminated fatally October 31st. His wife died the second day after, and they were both buried the same day, in their native town of Concord.

Dr. Jarvis' writings were voluminous, and embraced a wide range of subjects. His papers on "Vital Statistics," "Hygiene," and "Insanity," number over one hundred and fifty. He wrote also a *School Physiology*, which was translated into Japanese, and is in use in Japan. His library was extensive and unique of its kind. With the exception of certain special donations of books to Harvard College, the Concord Public Library, and the N.E. Hospital for Women and Children, it was bequeathed, with all his "books, works, and pamphlets," to the American Statistical Association of Boston, of which he was for 31 years president.

Dr. Jarvis was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, member of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, of the American Social Science Association, honorary member of the British Medico-Psychological Association, &c., &c.

I am indebted to Dr. Robert W. Wood, of Boston, for many of the above facts. He was a connection of Dr. Jarvis, and wrote a memorial of him for the American Statistical Association. I was somewhat acquainted with Dr. Jarvis, and knew him to be an earnest and "life-long seeker after the exact truth with reference to man in his highest interests and relations." He was painstaking and industrious in the extreme, as his statistical labours proved. He was not only an anthropologist and pioneer in this country in statistical science, but a philanthropist also, having deeply at heart the welfare of all the helpless and dependent classes of society.

---

As more than confirming the statement in the above notice—for which we are indebted to Dr. T. W. Fisher, of the Lunatic Hospital, Boston, Mass.—we may add the following short extract from Dr. Pliny Earle's work, "The Curability of Insanity":—"Familiarity with the writings of Dr. Jarvis, and a personal acquaintance with him of not less than thirty-five years, have led me to regard him as one of the ablest statistical philosophers of the United States. Perhaps no American has been more deeply interested in the subject of insanity than he, and few have made themselves so extensively acquainted with its literature." "He is a conscientious searcher after truth, and no less conscientious in the expression of what he believes to be the truth."