

# SHORT NOTES

IN REPLY TO DR. DAVEY'S WORK

ENTITLED

“Contributions to Mental Pathology,”

WITH A BRIEF NOTICE

OF

DR. DAVEY'S OFFICIAL CAREER IN CEYLON,

CAREFULLY COLLATED

FROM

*Official Documents and Information,*

BY

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*Assistant Surgeon to Her Majesty's Forces.*

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\* \* \* \* “Must I budge?  
Must I observe you? Must I stand and crouch  
Under your teaty humour? By the gods,  
You shall digest the venem of your spleen,  
Though it do split you,”

SHAKSPEARE.

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1850.

DEDICATION.

TO THE MEMBERS

OF THE

**Medical Services of Ceylon,**

BOTH

**MILITARY AND CIVIL,**

The following pages are respectfully dedicated by

*THE AUTHOR.*

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## APOLOGY FOR ERRATA.

THE following pages have been hastily written, and printed from the uncorrected M.S., so that many errors, both original, and typographical may be met with ; these I hope that my readers will pardon.

The subject treated of not being one which is likely to cause any permanent interest, if it causes any interest at all, I have endeavoured to hasten the publication of these notes, but I have found that referring to official documents has occupied more time, and caused more delay than I had anticipated ; and on this account I have ventured to place my notes unrevised, and uncorrected, before the public.

I may safely say that, whatever faults they may have, they contain no statement the truth of which is unsupported by the clearest evidence.

## PREFACE.

IN placing the following pages before the public, I may be allowed to observe that I have been unwillingly induced to do so, because a work such as that which I have passed under a short review requires more forbearance of temper than I fear I have been able to show;—at the same time the statements which that work has been the medium of publishing are so gross, as to call for the most positive contradiction,—and I trust that none of my readers may blame me for what they may consider harsh, acerbity of exposure, when they remember that, being without the means of other redress, I have been compelled in self defence, to throw discredit upon my accuser, and not on mine only, but on the public accuser of the service to which I have the honor to belong.

I have not reviewed Dr. Davey's work as a Medical publication, for although it has *crept*, as such, through the English Press, I have no doubt that every professional man will see that it has sought the light under false colours.

It is a work of controversy,—a work of more local than general interest;—a work of no scientific interest at all;—a work written for the sake of making its author appear a *clever*, and *ill-used* man;—a work of detraction, slander, and libel;—a work which I never would have noticed had it not possessed the last mentioned characteristics!

I have been told that Dr. Davcy boasted to some of his acquaintances before he left Ceylon, that he would send me a "rod in pickle" from England, —and presuming that I have received this valuable present in the form of his "*Contributions to Mental Pathology*," I can only say that it is more than I deserve; and that, while I accept the rod, and will endeavour to keep it *in my own hands*, the only return I can possibly make him, is<sup>d</sup> to place him *in the pickle*.

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## INTRODUCTION.

As it is probable that many of my readers may not be aware of the circumstances which led to any public discussion regarding Dr. Davey, or the success which attended his treatment of the insane, points which were discussed in the year 1848 through the medium of the public press, I have considered that the best way in which I can introduce the subject of the following pages, is again to lay before the public the leading articles regarding the Lunatic Asylum which appeared in the newspapers in the year 1848.

I may here observe that previously to this discussion, no public notice had been taken of Dr. Davey, and that I was dragged into the controversy by having been pointed at, by implication, as the Author of certain of the editorial articles of the *Times*.

I will place the articles referred to in the same consecutive order in which they appeared.

### THE NEW LUNATIC ASYLUM.

“Unremitting labour allows us little time for recreation, but when leisure does afford an opportunity, there is no public institution around Colombo which we occasionally visit with so much satisfaction as the New Lunatic Asylum. When we witness the comfort, the cleanliness, and the generally improved condition enjoyed by the unhappy inmates; the facilities which the building affords for the improved and milder treatment; and especially when we consider that many of the insane are placed there by their friends with a prospect of having

them restored to reason, to usefulness and happiness in the bosom of their families by the able and judicious management of a professional gentleman who has especially devoted his attention to affections of the mind, and is thoroughly and practically acquainted with the modern and scientific treatment of the insane—when we witness all this, we say we do enjoy not a little inward gratification that we were in some way instrumental in bringing about this change, this revolution, by exhibiting the miserable condition in which we discovered the insane a few years ago in the Leper Hospital. Some of our readers may remember the obloquy we incurred by describing the filth, chains, and dungeons of that abode of wretchedness; and how our most violent assailants in the Legislative Council when appointed a Committee of Enquiry became in all material respects our vindicators. The result of that discussion was a determination on the part of Government, to effect an entire change; and as most essential in effecting this, to procure from England a person thoroughly conversant with this peculiar Department of Medical Science. Still the new Asylum is not all that could be desired. It is peculiarly deficient in site, which is both low and distant—thus losing the advantages in the treatment of the insane of extensive prospect, and frequent intercourse with a town. We must, however acquit Dr. Davey of this grave error, for though he was, we recollect, consulted upon the question, his opinion in favor of an elevated locality was overruled in consequence of the inconvenience experienced in supplying the new Jail at Wellicadde with water because it is built upon a height.

“An opinion prevails that the situation of the Asylum is unhealthy, and as we believe this to be erroneous, and calculated to prove injurious by deterring their friends from placing insane persons there;—we would give it the most emphatic contradiction. A prolonged residence in Colombo under circumstances which peculiarly assist in forming an estimate of the salubrity or insalubrity of the different localities, enables us to say with some degree of confidence that the Asylum is placed in as healthy a situation, as any around the town. It is, as we have already said, low, and in wet weather water is found close to the surface as in most other sandy parts of the Cinnamon Garden. But it is not, properly speaking, marshy, as the moisture rapidly percolates through the



sandy soil and soon leaves the trifling amount of vegetable matter almost perfectly dry, and therefore not in condition (if it even were in quantity, which it is not) to generate miasm. Experience moreover teaches, there are no more salubrious situations for residence than the flat, sandy Cinnamon Gardens. It would be unfair to institute a comparison between the present Asylum and the Leper Hospital where the Lunatics were formerly kept previous to the arrival of Dr. Davey, for notwithstanding the beautiful position at Hendelle, the wretched creatures were so neglected that, from the time they were introduced until their bodies were carried out, they underwent a living death. But comparing the present Asylum with the Jails, we understand the sickness and mortality have been considerably less at the former than the latter, and that too, be it remembered, whilst all the inmates of the one institution are admitted and continue labouring under disease; and those of the other are generally introduced in health. On enquiry we also learn that deaths from disease which might be considered incidental to locality—such as Fever and Dysentery—were so very few last year as not to excite particular attention. The average number of deaths since Dr. Davey's arrival has gradually and considerably diminished; but we exceedingly regret to learn that owing to an injudicious diminution in the diet—an increased mortality took place towards the end of last year. To this circumstance we would entreat the particular attention of Government—for wherever strict economy may be justifiably attempted; the greatest care should be taken, that those on whom the Almighty has laid his afflicting hand, and whom the Government take from their friends into its own special charge, do not suffer for want of any necessary or even comfort. We know not where the blame properly attaches for this grievous error, nor are we anxious to enquire; as we trust the present notice may be sufficient to prevent the possibility of its being again committed.

“Not only have the comfort and cleanliness of the Lunatics increased, and the mortality diminished under Dr. Davey's management, but, more pleasing still, the number of cures has greatly increased. Under the old system by which the insane were treated like ferocious wild beasts, a recovery seldom took place, and if it did, it might be considered owing rather to the direct interference of a superior power than to human agency.



Now on the contrary, notwithstanding the great disadvantages under which the Natives are treated and—we regret to add—the undue interference of superior authority,—Dr. Davey has succeeded in restoring many patients to reason and these too in an increased ratio to the admissions.

“Having said thus much, candor obliges us to add an expression of the regret we often experienced that Dr. Davey should have resided so far from the sphere of his labours whilst the Lunatics remained at Hendelle. Indeed we consider his present dwelling too far from his patients. We allude to this circumstance because we are particularly anxious that the Colony should derive the fullest advantage from Dr. Davey’s services; for, if properly and fully availed of, we look upon his as one of the most useful offices that has latterly been created. The same anxiety induces us to enquire, why the Asylum is not carried out immediately according to the original plan—so as to congregate the many lunatics still at large throughout the island, not merely into a place of safety where they cannot commit as they frequently do, irretrievable injury on their fellow men, but be themselves taken care of, treated with humanity, and subjected to the improved means for the cure of the insane, which, without any disparagement to the profession,—we must admit, Medical men who have not specially devoted their attention to it, are seldom capable of resorting to with any great prospect of success.”

[*Colombo Observer*, May 15, 1848.

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“The last *Observer* contains about so impudent a puff of Dr. Davey, and so grossly false charges against others, that we may call upon the Editor for proofs of his statement.

“It matters little whether Dr. Davey is or is not so very superiorly skilled in the *modern* and *scientific* treatment of the insane, as he is represented to be. Most Medical men know that this “modern and scientific treatment” consists in studying the disposition, noting and counter-acting any peculiar bias, or prejudice, religious or otherwise, in short in gaining the confidence of the patient, and thus acquiring an ascendancy over his disordered mind. Now how is it possible for any man to conduct such a treatment who does not understand one word of the lan-

guage of his patients ? Perhaps the Editor of the *Observer* can throw some new light upon this puzzling question.

“ With regard to the healthiness of the new Asylum, we would ask the Editor of the *Observer* what the circumstances are which so *peculiarly* assist him in forming an estimate of its comparative salubrity. Has he ever lived in it ? Does he know that on a late occasion, when Cholera was prevalent in the Fort, a company of the 37th Regiment occupied the new Asylum as barracks, and that among these men fever, and fever of a severe type was prevalent ; while Wallicadde Jail and other adjacent high grounds were comparatively or entirely free from it ? Is he prepared to prove, from the casualty returns of the different Medical Officers, that since the insane were moved into the new Asylum, the sickness and mortality among them has been comparatively less or *that it has not been comparatively greater*, than among the inmates of the Jails in general, and those of Wellicadde Jail and Hendelle Hospital in particular ? Can he support his statement that since Dr. Davey’s arrival, the number of deaths has gradually and considerably diminished by any accurate statistical documents extending over a series of years ?

“ What was the *‘injudicious diminution of diet’* which he says caused an increased mortality among the insane towards the end of last year ? Had it the same fatal effects in other Native Hospitals in which it was adopted ? Why does it not *continue* a cause of mortality among the insane ? and how does it happen that in spite of this, cures are now progressing among them in the most wonderful manner ? Has there been *any diminution of the diets at all* ? What was the former and what is the present scale ? What proposition does the present scale hold, with regard to the quantity and quality of the probable consumption of any of these poor *starved creatures*, who had not the misfortune of being fed at the expense of the Government ? Is there a single case on record of any patient having died from *want of food* in any Government Asylum in this Island, and if not is the Editor of the *Observer* justified in making such a statement.

“ When and under whose direction, did the *‘old system’* of treating the insane *‘like ferocious wild beasts prevail’* ? Can the *Observer* instance, and detail cases in proof that any insane patient was ever treated with *needless severity* by any of Dr. Davey’s predecessors ?

“What was the undue interference of power which the *Observer* so pathetically bewails? Was it any thing more than a legitimate exercise of authority to *compel* Dr. Davey to respect the prescribed rules of the Service and to carry on his ‘*Modern and Scientific treatment*’ with more effect, by visiting his hospital more frequently than he was inclined to do?”

“If our *liberal contemporary* has any difficulty in answering these questions, we would recommend him to apply for permission to consult the records in the Principal Medical Officer’s Office, as any information derived from that source may be regarded as *authentic*.”

[*Ceylon Times*, May 18, 1848.

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#### TREATMENT OF LUNATICS IN CEYLON.

“We are rejoiced to find that the state, past and present, of the Lunatic Asylum has been taken up by the *Ceylon Times*, even though our contemporary differs in opinion essentially from us on the subject. We remember how the discussion that we originated some years ago led to an amelioration in the condition of the unhappy inmates of the institution; and have no doubt but a similar result will now follow. It is evident that our contemporary writes on the authority at least of some one who has access to the records of the Principal Medical Officer’s Office, which of course adds weight, gives importance we should say to any statement he makes—and we therefore wish he had made more use of the information at his command, than putting a number of queries which by the strict rules of controversy we are not bound to answer. But as we inferentially discover that we have in our former article committed one mistake, which we shall presently explain; and as we consider doubt is most erroneously thrown upon our other statements, we cheerfully waive minor considerations, and at once proceed to answer the queries of the *Times*. In order to perform this momentous task satisfactorily as we hope to do—we shall place the queries of the *Times* (or, as we believe we might safely say the *Times*’ official informant) and our answers in parallel columns; and in the performance of the sacred duty we beg to assure our

antagonist that we desire to avoid all personal feeling, and only to elicit the true state of things; and thus conduce to the welfare of the afflicted beings, whose gurdians all right-feeling men ought to become.

(THE 'TIMES' QUERIES.)

"The last *Observer* contains about so impudent a puff of Dr. Davey, and so grossly false charges against others that we may call upon the Editor for proofs of the statement.

"It matters little whether Dr. Davey is or is not so very superiorly skilled in the *modern* and *scientific* treatment of the insane as he is represented to be.

(OUR REPLIES.)

"The result of this discussion must prove the justice or injustice of these remarks. The past and present state of the Lunatics satisfies our own mind on the subject.

"It matters, every thing, we affirm. It was this object the local Government and Legislative Council requested that such a person should be sent out; that the Secretary of State applied in the fittest quarter for a person thus qualified; and that Dr. Davey who had resided some years in Hanwell was appointed.

The consequence of Dr. Davey's superior skill is, that recoveries, before so rare have, under his treatment become comparatively frequent. The record of the Principal Medical Officer's Department will shew, that whilst in 1844 (the year before Dr. Davey's arrival) not a single discharge took place, in 1845 there were 12, in 1846 there were 4, and in 1847 there were 14 discharged.

"Most Medical men know that this '*modern* and *scientific* treatment' mainly consists in studying the

"Supposing the writer of the opposite sentence to be a Medical man, we would ask no better proof



## (THE 'TIMES' QUERIES.)

dispositions, noting and counteracting any peculiar bias, or prejudice religious or otherwise—in short in gaining the confidence of the patient, and thus acquiring an ascendancy over his disordered mind.

“ Now how is it possible for any man to conduct such a treatment who does not understand one word of the language of his patients? Perhaps the Editor of the *Observer* can throw some new light upon this puzzling question?”

“ With regard to the healthiness of the new Asylum, we would ask the Editor of the *Observer* what the circumstances are which so “*peculiarly*” assist him in forming an estimate of its comparative salubrity. Has he ever lived in it?”

“ Does he know that on a late occasion when Cholera was prevalent in the Fort, a Company of the 37th Regiment occupied the new Asylum as barracks, and

## (OUR REPLIES.)

than such a meagre idea as his—that—‘most Medical men’ know very little—that is, have very little practical experience in—the ‘modern and scientific modes of treating’ the insane. Infinitely more is required, but which it would be foreign to our purpose to enlarge upon.

“ This is a ‘puzzling question’ but no more so than as it applies to all other Europeans employed in the country. The Chief Justice, for example, is obliged to trust to interpretation in the discharge of his duties, which often involve the lives of natives. It would be well if His Lordship understood the language of the people, and so too it would be well if Dr. Davey could communicate directly with his patients.

“ The peculiar circumstances we alluded to, are professional experience and intercourse with professional men during a residence of 13 years in Colombo.

“ Indeed we *do* know, for we happened to visit the place at the very time, and a more filthy public building we have never seen—always excepting the *old*

## (THE 'TIMES' QUERIES.)

that among these men fever, and fever of a severe type was prevalent; while Wellicadde Jail and other adjacent high situations were comparatively, or entirely free from it?

## (OUR REPLIES.)

Lunatic Asylum. A number of Europeans were crowded into a small place, before the drains and other means of securing cleanliness were completed; and if they did become unusually sickly we are not surprised, for the state in which we saw the building is better imagined than described here. Besides, it is well known that during the existence of Cholera, other epidemic diseases generally prevail; and if the 37th suffered here as they did in the Fort of Colombo, where the mortality was so great amongst them for some time after their arrival, it is nothing more than what might be expected. But even though an epidemic did appear amongst these men—the same occasionally manifests itself in the most healthy localities; and the comparison drawn between the Asylum and the Jail close by does not hold good, unless it can be shewn that Europeans similarly circumstanced in the two places were differently affected. The question is, what proportion does the average number of sick in both institutions bear to the number of ordinary inmates? In this respect the Asylum has the advantage; and even at the present time the average at the



(THE 'TIMES' QUERIES.)

“ Is he prepared to prove, from the casualty returns of the different Medical Officers, that since the insane were moved into the new Asylum, the sickness and mortality among them has been comparatively less, or *that it is not been comparatively greater*, than among the inmates of the Jails in general, and those of Wellicadde jail and Hendelle Hospital in particular?

“ Can he support his statement that since Dr. Davey's arrival, the number of deaths has gradually and considerably diminished by any accurate statistical documents extending over a series of years?

(OUR REPLIES.)

Jail is about 11 per cent—whilst at the Asylum it is not quite 8 per cent.

“ We admit that we committed an error in saying, in an unqualified manner, that the number of *deaths* is less in the Asylum than in the Jails; but we believe the comparison will hold true if the average proportion of deaths attributable to diseases *contracted within the buildings* respectively be taken.

“ We have seen a statistical document from the Principal Civil Medical Officer's Department which shows that in 1844 (at the end of which Dr. Davey took charge) the average number of deaths was 33.3 per cent.; in 1845 it was reduced to 23.7 per cent., in 1846 still more to 15.1 per cent.; but alas in 1847 it retrograded to 21.7 per cent. the sad result of improper diet.\*

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\* Yes! and a precious document it is! The information furnished to Mr. Elliott, Editor of the *Colombo Observer*, is published, in a tabular form by Dr. Davey at pages 139; but unfortunately, it is quite incorrect; the table referred to being one mass of absurdity blundering and inaccuracy, as useless, and unworthy of credit as every other part of Dr. Davey's work! It was not enough for Mr. Elliott to have *seen* the table in question, or received a statement as to the average number of deaths for a period of three years. Before he used such informa-

(THE 'TIMES' QUERIES.)

(OUR REPLIES.)

“What was the ‘*injurious diminution of diet*’ which

“it is sufficient for our purpose to know that about

tion, he should have tested, and proved its accuracy. If he will take the trouble of looking at the table now, he will find the number treated during the year 1847 to be stated as 719,—whereas from the 1st January 1844, to the 31st December 1849 inclusive, only 212 patients, insane, and epileptic, received Medical treatment in the Lunatic Asylum!! He will find that of these *supposed* 719 patients 13 are said to have died, and that the average percentage of mortality during the year is stated to have been 27.1—while, if the data published by Dr. Davey were correct, which they are not, the percentage of deaths for the year 1847 would be as low as 1.8!!!

I will notice this table more particularly in its proper place; but in the meantime I may be allowed to ask Mr. Elliott how, or from whom he received his information of its contents so early as 1848.

I do not put this question for the sake of gratifying any idle curiosity; but because it is of the utmost consequence to Dr. Davey that it should be candidly answered—as the table forms part of his second official Report, to the Principal Civil Medical Officer.

I know that Mr. Elliott did not receive the information directly from the Medical Office, or with the sanction of Dr. Roe—and if he received it; directly, or indirectly, from Dr. Davey, who has publicly denied all private knowledge of, or participation in any of Mr. Elliott's writings which had reference to him, or the Lunatic Asylum\* then Dr. Davey must be guilty of having published a most wilful and deliberate falsehood. Should Mr. Elliott have tampered with any of the Subordinates in the Medical Office, and received his information from them, he is bound, in honor, and in justice to Dr. Davey, to acknowledge that he has done so;—for there can be no doubt that the information was either conveyed to him directly or indirectly by Dr. Davey,—or that it was surreptitiously obtained from the Medical Office; a supposition which I cannot for one moment entertain.

\* See his letter to the “*Ceylon Times*.”

## (THE 'TIMES' QUERIES.)

he says caused an increased mortality among the insane towards the end of last year? Had it the same *fatal effects* in other Native Hospitals in which it was adopted? Why does it not *continue* a cause of mortality among the insane? and how does it happen that in spite of it, cures are now progressing among them in the *most wonderful* manner? Has there been any diminution of the diet at all? What was the former and what is the present scale? What proportion does the present scale hold, with regard to the quantity and quality of the probable daily consumption of any of these poor *starved creatures* who had not the misfortune of being fed at the expense of Government? Is there a single case on record of any patient having died from *want of food* in any Government Asylum in this Island, and if not, is the Editor of the *Observer* justified in making such a statement?

## (OUR REPLIES.)

the middle of 1846 the diet was altered in a manner which Dr. Davey considered unsuitable both in quantity and quality to the Insane; that to this cause he attributes the increased mortality that took place a few months afterwards; and to know that in this opinion he is supported by the best modern authorities on the treatment of the insane.

“The mortality this year, so far as it has gone, is even still greater than it was last year. These deaths moreover are not from diseases that may be supposed to arise from miasm but from debility—thereby strengthening the presumption that they are the result of improper diet.

“As in some manner connected with this part of the subject, we would express our regret to learn that the use of Beetle has been denied the Insane. Independently of the distress which the Natives feel at the loss of this indulgence—we are surprised to find that it is not considered an auxiliary to treatment. What would be said of the Asylum in England where an Insane patient should be deprived of snuff? Such treatment we imagine would be thought to savour of the

## (THE 'TIMES' QUERIES.)

"When and under whose direction did the 'old system' of treating the insane 'like ferocious wild beasts' prevail? Can the *Observer* instance, and detail cases in proof that any insane patients was ever treated with *needless* severity by any of Dr. Davey's predecessors?"

## (OUR REPLIES)

'old system'—certainly not of the 'new.'

"We speak from our own knowledge—from what we ourselves witnessed when we affirm that the Insane were treated at Hendelee like 'ferocious wild beasts'—but it is of little consequence under whose management. The strait waistcoat and the rattan were ordinary modes of restraint—'Troublesome patients' were immured in dungeons through the gratings of which they might be seen gazing and vainly imploring to be let out; whilst the filth of these cages was so great that the Committee who went to inspect them (even after the *Observer* had been the cause of discussion in the Legislative Council, as a Member of it, the late Revd. Mr. Daniell assured us) could not enter them. We ourselves saw a man who had been many years chained to a wall, and there is at this moment in the Asylum, under Dr. Davey's treatment, a female quite unrestrained who was generally chained up in the same manner. Pray what was this and more that we could specify, but treatment only suited to '*ferocious wild beasts.*' But this forms only part of the

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“What was the undue interference of power which the *Observer* so pathetically bewails? Was it any thing more than a legitimate exercise of authority to compel Dr. Davey to respect the prescribed rules of the service, and to carry on his ‘*modern and scientific treatment*’ with more effect, by visiting his hospital more frequently than he was inclined to do?

## (OUR REPLIES.)

‘old system’ which Dr. Davey has exploded.

“This part of the subject had perhaps better not be enlarged upon, as it might lead to unpleasant feeling between those on whose unanimity the welfare of the poor Lunatics depends;—and as it would require the introduction of the names of parties who are not at present in Ceylon. It is sufficient for our purpose to know that the Superintendent of the Insane is placed under the controul of the Principal Medical Officer—an arrangement which we consider highly objectionable; and calculated to impair the usefulness of the former. Why is not the Botanical Garden placed under the same supervision? Or why, if a Medical man, selected for the purpose in consequence of peculiar qualifications for the office, were sent out from England to investigate the Natural History of the Pearl Oyster, of which nothing is yet known,—why, we say, would not he be subjected to the controul of the Principal Civil Medical Officer? Simply because professional men though more or less acquainted with these collateral sciences, ought not to



## (THE 'TIMES' QUERIES.)

## (OUR REPLIES)

control their brethren who have specially devoted their attention to practical branches of the profession.

"If our *liberal contemporary* has any difficulty in answering these questions, we would recommend him to apply for permission to consult the records in the Principal Medical Officer's Office; as any information derived from that source may be regarded as *authentic*."

"We shall be happy to see in the columns of the *Times* the information indilated."

[*Colombo Observer*, 25th May, 1848.]

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 THE "OBSERVER" AND THE NEW LUNATIC ASYLUM.

"We were not a little amused by our contemporary's introduction to his *Replies* (?) to the queries which we put to him on the different points of his first article on the New Lunatic Asylum; and we were equally amused at the ingenuity displayed by him in avoiding such of those queries as it was most important, but we doubt not *most difficult* for him to answer! if we had not been in the habit of reading the *Observer*, and if the subject had not been too serious for us to indulge our *risibility* upon, we should have *laughed outright*!

"We may tell our contemporary that we have the well being of the insane quite as much at *heart* as he has; that we know *his consistency*, and *his benevolence*; and that, *such as they are*, we despise them.

"As an illustration of the *Observer's consistency* we would adduce the *emphatic denial* which he gave in his first article already referred to, to the *opinion* that the situation of the New Lunatic Asylum is unhealthy because *forsooth* the prevalence of such an opinion was likely to prevent persons from sending their friends there for treatment, and the *unqualified, but false* assertion which he made almost immediately afterwards to suit his own



purposes, that persons *who were sent there* died from *Want of Food*. Surely if the *assertion* be true, it is of very little consequence whether the *opinion* be correct or not, as there can be no doubt that the former is much more likely to *deter* people from applying for relief than the latter can possibly be!

“As an illustration of his *benevolence* we would adduce the *kind manner* in which he has taken Dr. Davey by the hand; and the *still kinder manner* in which to *serve his friend*, he has launched the most *injurious* and *malicious* charges against the Head of the Medical Department, who is a man, we are fully assured, of such honesty and integrity of purpose, that he scorns the *Observer's* praise, and despises his censure!

“We proceed however to notice more in detail, our contemporary's last article upon this question, and, in doing so, we shall adopt, in a modified form, the system of *parallel columns* which seems to have become a favorite of his since he played such an important part in the entertaining *comedy* called *Oculisca*.

“*Dr. Davey's extraordinary qualifications.*” “We repeat that it ‘matters little’, very little indeed, to the insane of *Ceylon*, whether the gentleman appointed to treat them is, or is not *very* or *at all* skilful in the treatment of the *English insane*, provided that this gentleman is deficient in an *essential requisite* for the *proper treatment* of the former, in which he is *not deficient in regard to the proper treatment* of the latter. Under these circumstances we would look upon the gentleman in question as in some respects resembling a steam Engine which could not set itself in motion—and had no person by, who understood its mechanism sufficiently to apply the proper power.

“We can afford to be laughed at for our ‘meagre ideas’ of Medical matters; still we are glad to find our contemporary admitting that it would ‘be well if Dr. Davey could communicate directly with his patients.’ Such an admission makes us *bold* enough to say that it would not only be *well*, but that *it is essentially necessary* that he should be able to do so. No Medical man, or no man of common sense will bear our contemporary out in saying that it is not. More is required, *infinitely more* it may be; but until Dr. Davey is qualified in this important particular, we have no hesitation in pronouncing him unfit for

the appointment which he holds? His case and that of the judges on the Bench are by no means parallel, and our contemporary must have had very little to advance, when he made the comparison—if he had selected the Missionaries, who are sent out to teach and preach to the Natives, the comparison would have held good—but he was no doubt *cunning* enough to see that such a comparison would have been against him; as these gentlemen make a point of acquiring a knowledge of the native languages, in all cases where such a knowledge is necessary.

“After all however, we may have laid too much stress on this point; and ‘*the Doctors*’ not understanding the language of his patients may not be a matter of so much importance as, at first sight it would appear to be. It is *just possible*, from the *frequent* and *daily* intercourse which must have existed, and which, no doubt still exists between Dr. Davey and the insane (?) that, by *this time*, the latter may have acquired a knowledge of the English language.

“*The comparative healthiness of the New Asylum.*”

“On this subject our contemporary considers himself entitled to give a very decided opinion, in consequence of a residence of 13 years in Colombo. Now we know that, notwithstanding his lengthened residence in the country, his judgment has, in many cases, been sadly at fault, (indeed our wonder is that *judgment* has not been pronounced *against him* long ago) and we think it just possible that his long residence in Ceylon may be no better guarantee for his *correctness* on this occasion than it has been on many others. However, not having had the *same education* as our contemporary, we do not know; we therefore ask him if he can give any *sufficient reason* why there should be no appeal against *his decision* of this question. We hope that he will not lay himself open to any such satire as Cowper launched at his “Travelled Fool” in the Stanza:—

“Sir, if my judgment you’ll allow,  
I’ve seen, and sure I ought to know!”

“*The new and the old diets of the insane and other Native patients. Has there been any diminution of these diets? &c.*”

“Under this head we asked our contemporary what diminution of diets (if any) had been ordered.

“What was the former, and what is the present scale of diets for the insane. Whether, by the present scale, they have a more or less liberal allowance of food than they would probably consume, or be able to procure, if at large. Whether there is any case on record of a patient having died in any Government Asylum from want of food, under the present, or under any former prescribed scale of diets.

“These are serious questions, and *most seriously* we repeat them ; for on this part of our subject any levity, would be worse than misplaced. It will not do for the Editor of the *Observer* to say that Dr. Davey considered the diet sufficient, and attributed the increased mortality to that cause. It is a question for Dr. Davey to answer to his superiors, whether he did, or did not report officially, every case of starvation as it occurred.

“The Editor of the *Observer* has published to the world that cases of *starvation to death have occurred* in the Government Lunatic Asylum here. We have called upon him to prove the truth of this assertion—he has failed to do so; we therefore pronounce it to be *false*, and again challenge *our contemporary* to prove it to be otherwise, *if he can*.

“Not only *as a man*, but as connected with the Press of India, we *feel* strongly, and, as the latter at least, we have a right to *express ourselves* strongly on an outrage so gross as that of which the *Observer* has been guilty. We wish for the sake of the Press in general, that it had been the first!

“*The insane formerly treated like ‘ferocious wild beasts.’*”

“We do not doubt that there is a woman now at large under Dr. Davey’s treatment, who was formerly confined by chains. Would such a mode of restraint have been adopted, if any less objectionable had been available, or does it follow that because the woman may be ‘*generally*’ allowed to go at large *now*—the more frequent restraint which would seem to have been imposed was *then* unnecessary?”

“*The alleged undue interference of superior authority—its nature and extent?*”

“We agree with our contemporary that this is a question which, on Dr. Davey’s account, ought not perhaps to be discussed, but we do

not think the discussion at all likely to be *injurious to the insane*. However let it pass! We are surprised that the Editor of the *Observer* should have given it such prominent insertion in the first instance. 'Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.' We have no doubt that this hint will be *fully understood* by all to whom the proverb may be in any way applicable.

"Our contemporary and the public again referred to the records in the Principal Medical Officer's Office."

"When our contemporary calls upon us to furnish information from these records in proof of the correctness or incorrectness of his statements, he does what is very childish

and absurd. We referred him to these records for *more certain information* than he seemed to possess, feeling assured that his application in that quarter would meet with the same courteous attention that similar applications always meet with in other public offices.

"As our contemporary however seems unwilling, or it may, be *too modest*, to apply for information in the only quarter in which he can depend upon its being *authentic* we would recommend any of his readers who may feel interested in this question to do so for themselves; and with this recommendation, we dismiss the subject."

[*Ceylon Times*, 29th May, 1848.]

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#### THE NEW LUNATIC ASYLUM.

"The *Ceylon Times* of Monday last contains a long and spiteful article, purporting to be a rejoinder to our last remarks upon the Lunatic Asylum. Instead of controverting our statements of official returns which we quoted at our contemporary's suggestion, or using any other argument, he deals out ill-natured and personal insinuation against both Dr. Davey and ourselves, quite foreign to the subject in hand.

"It must indeed be very bad cause that requires such weapons; and after our avowed anxiety to avoid whatever might create unpleasant feeling, the good taste of our antagonist is not to be admired. The *Times*, we say, resorts to spiteful personalities, in order to avoid the im-



portant point at issue. He does not venture to deny the diminished mortality anterior to the altered plan of dietary, nor the increased number of cures; nor yet the increased mortality after the new diet rules; nor the greater proportion of sickness at the jail as compared with the Asylum.

“All these our contemporary passes over, and by his silence admits the correctness of our former representation of these circumstances.\*

“There are but two assertions that we think it necessary to notice. It is said that we have ‘launched the most injurious’ and malicious charges against the head ‘of the Medical Department.’ We have done no such thing.† We are made of sterner stuff than to allow any misplaced delicacy to interfere with the candid expression of our opinion when such unprotected interests as those under consideration are at stake; and we are quite certain that Dr. Roe’s mind is too elevated to consider himself infallible, or to feel a question of his judgment to be ‘a charge.’ As to the idea of injuriousness and maliciousness it is too preposterous to need refutation, and we shall not insult Dr. Roe’s understanding by disclaiming such feelings. Besides it must be remembered that our remarks applied to the former as well as to the present head of the Medical Department; and it is no charge to maintain that the peculiarly qualified Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum should not be placed under the controul of any ordinary Medical man—whoever this officer may be.

“It is again said by the *Times* that we have ‘published to the world that cases’ of starvation to death have oc-

\* By no means! the *Times* referred the Editor of the *Colombo Observer*, and his readers, to the records in the Principal Medical Officer’s Office, where the former might have found all his statements contradicted by DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. For instance, in 1848 the percentage of mortality at the jail was 4.3; and at the ‘Lunatic Asylum’ 21.4.

† No ? (!) Have you not said that his “interference” was “injurious”,—and that he curtailed the diets to such a degree as to cause an increased mortality?—JUST THINK AGAIN!

curred in the 'Government Lunatic Asylum here.' By no means. We have certainly stated that an increased mortality had taken place in consequence of the inadequacy and unsuitableness of the food now allowed to the Lunatics, and that Dr. Davey was of this opinion. But no ingenuity can pervert this into an accusation of starving Lunatics to death. God forbid that any amongst our authorities could sanction such a practice. The courtly *Friend of India* of May 4th happens to have a very interesting article, which proves that the mortality in the Bengal jails has considerably diminished since the introduction of a system of messing which insures a supply of provisions more adequate to the Physical wants of the prisoners; and goes on to show that under the former system the sentence of simple imprisonment in the cases of 5 per cent. of prisoners was converted into a sentence of death. Yet none—at least of those who know the leaning of the *Friend of India* towards all authority—will charge him of accusing the Government of starving the prisoners to death.\*

"We have, as we have said, no desire to be personal; but believing that we trace a family resemblance in the length of the article in the *Times* to the writer of it, we would conclude in the words of advice which the Calcutta *Englishman* tenders (on a subject somewhat congenial to that under present discussion here) to the Editor of the *India Register of Medical Science*. 'Dr. Edlin [\* \* \* \*] is a young man and a young Editor, we are sorry to see him in such matter imitate certain old gentlemen and old medical Editors whom we could

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\* It requires a great deal of "ingenuity" to establish a distinction between only allowing a man who is shut up and unable to provide for himself, a quantity of food which is insufficient to support life, a diet which, from its insufficiency, shortens the term of existence, and "starving" that man "to death." It would be more humane to stop supplies altogether, because in that case, the sufferings of the miserable victim would be less protracted!!



name, whose example he will find it more advantageous to avoid.'\*\*

[*Colombo Observer*, June 5th, 1848.

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\* I ought to feel obliged to Mr. Elliott, Editor and Proprietor of the *Colombo Observer*, for this gratuitous advice if it be intended for me. He has had experience as a public writer, which he has turned to such excellent account that he may now be considered as presiding over the storm, and tempest of the Ceylon Press,—censuring, or insulting whom he pleases,—and rendering a reason to no man!

Having advised, Mr. Elliott will perhaps condescend to instruct. I am anxious to learn *from him* if modern *Gentlemen* and modern Editors are unanimous in supporting the practice of making public statements prejudicial to men of worth, and talent, without properly authenticated information; or if they are in the habit of tracing family resemblances between suspected authors and their suspected writings.

I know that old Editors, and old GENTLEMEN do not adopt this practice; and I am inclined to think that if *they* do err, they err upon the safe side.

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SHORT NOTES IN REPLY TO DR. DAVEY'S WORK  
ENTITLED MENTAL PATHOLOGY.

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CHAPTER I.

*Dr. Davey's position in the Civil Medical Service of Ceylon.*

WHILE no task is more pleasing than that of dwelling with praise upon the writings, or actions of a man, there is none more unpleasant or difficult than that of dwelling with censure upon either; firstly, because we ought to drag the imperfections of our neighbours before the public with reluctance; and secondly, because in a review such as that which I have now undertaken, we must be careful not to indulge in any expressions prompted, as such expressions too naturally, and too commonly are, by a spirit of vindictiveness, and a malevolent desire for retaliation of injuries inflicted upon us. It will be my most earnest endeavour to avoid the last mentioned error, and if at any time a hasty, or what may seem an unwarranted expression may escape me, I trust that my readers may remember the very serious provocation which I, in common with the Medical Department, have received from Dr. Davey. It must be admitted that there existed much necessity for measures to be taken on behalf of the Lunatics in Ceylon, and that the appointment of a person who had devoted his sole attention to the management and treatment of the Insane was both

humane, and expedient, on the part of Government; but at the same time it is to be regretted that Dr. Davey the person so appointed, should have mistaken the nature of his position, and so caused much unnecessary mischief. That Dr. Davey has mistaken his position, I will endeavour to show,—and none, I feel assured, will disagree with me when I say that *insubordination* must of necessity lead to mischievous results in any Public Service;—but here let the author speak for himself.

“*From the period of my arrival, in Ceylon, as a Government Medical Servant,*” writes Dr. Davey, “*I plainly saw that my position was beset with difficulties and danger; it was directly perceived by me that no common prudence would carry me harmless through the crooked ways prepared for me by jealous officials, and prejudiced and spiteful contemporaries. It required no lynx eye to discover the dirty opposition and threatened enmity which manifested themselves towards me, or rather the appointment I had been sent from England to fill. I took my precautions accordingly. I soon experienced the consequence of being an intruding member of the Colonial Medical Service.*”

From the above, and many other passages in Dr. Davey's work, it is evident that he has laboured under some extraordinary delusion, and it cannot be matter of surprise that having written, as he has done, from false premises, he should have fallen into very serious error. It will scarcely be believed that Dr. Davey, so far from being “*an intruding,*” was a *relieving* member of the Colonial Medical Service,—but such is the fact! Before his arrival, the insane were under the immediate charge of one

of the Colonial Sub-Assistants, subject to the supervision of the then Superintendent of Vaccination, Dr. Templeton, Assistant Surgeon Royal Artillery. For the supervision of Vaccination together with that of the Lunatic Hospital, Dr. Templeton received £90 a year, but on the arrival of Dr. Davey, he was relieved from the latter duty,—without any diminution of his salary.

When Dr. Davey accepted the appointment of Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum in Ceylon, he was ordered by the Secretary of State to proceed thither, and on his arrival, to report himself to the Governor. He did so; and the Governor ordered him to report himself to the Principal Medical Officer. This order was distasteful to Dr. Davey; in this, and this only, consisted the “*danger, and difficulty of his position.*” It is on account of this order that he *raves* about “*the crooked ways*” prepared for him by “*jealous Officials.*” He considered himself “*much, and seriously interfered with,*” because the Principal Medical Officer acted up to instructions conveyed to him by the Governor of the Colony whom he was bound to obey! Dr. Davey admits that in the Medical treatment of his patients he was not interfered with, and it was surely reasonable that while the Principal Medical Officer was in any way responsible to Government for the expenditure, and general management of the asylum, he should have been cognizant of all its arrangements, and had power to direct and advise regarding them. In this way only could he correct abuses, to which even

the *immaculate* (?) Dr. Davey must plead guilty—but of this more anon.\*

It is too evident from Dr. Davey's writing, that his own personal aggrandisement and importance have been estimated by him quite as much, if not more than the "*ameleoration of the insane*."

"I have seemed a perfect *incognitus*," he says, "in Ceylon, and my situation an enigma; a fact

\*Dr. Davey quotes the following letter, which he says refers to his official position:—

"DOWNING-STREET, 15th May, 1844.

"SIR,—I am directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, inclosing a note from Dr. Davey, accompanied by certificates from the resident physician, and visiting justices of the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum as to his qualifications to undertake *the superintendence of a lunatic asylum at Colombo*. I am to inform you in answer, that Lord Stanley considers these certificates as quite satisfactory, and will accordingly appoint Dr. Davey to the situation.

"The emoluments, &c.

"I return, herewith, Dr. Davey's certificates, as Lord Stanley thinks that it may, perhaps, be agreeable to him to present in person to the *Governor of Ceylon* testimonials so highly creditable to him."

If upon this letter only Dr. Davey assumes an independence of the Principal Medical Officer, he has very little grounds indeed of support to his opinion. The Secretary of State did in his case, as he would have done in that of any other person appointed to the Civil Service, desire him to report himself to the Governor, leaving it of course to the Governor to order him to report himself to the Head of the Department to which he was appointed. How could Dr. Davey expect a special interference in his case, on the part of the Secretary of State, with the minute details of the Medical Service in Ceylon, with which he must be totally unacquainted?



confirmed by the omission of my name from the list of Civil Servants, and its insertion in the fixed or Colonial Establishment; but I hardly suppose it was intended to rank me with native clerks,—and subordinates in the several Government departments.”

“The superintendent of the Botanic Garden is put upon the Civil List, and why should *not* the “*Superintendent of Lunatics?*” and, moreover, the former appointment, unlike the latter, is not subject to the surveillance of the Garrison Physician, or Senior Medical man.”

Dr. Davey is in error regarding the Superintendent of the Botanic Garden. HE IS *not* on the CIVIL LIST;—neither is he responsible to the Principal Medical Officer, because he has no Medical duty to perform. The present Superintendent, Mr. Thwaites, is not a Medical man.

Dr. Davey dwells upon the wording of his order to assume his duties in the Colony, and infers from the circumstance of his being therein desired to *take over* CHARGE of the asylum from Dr. Templeton, that he might consider himself irresponsible to the Head of the Medical Department in the Island. He should have known that the same order is constantly given to Medical Officers both Military, and Civil when they proceed from one station to another, and he would then have seen the absurdity of applying a process of reasoning to his own case which was not applicable to theirs. His *reasoning* that he ought to have been considered superior to the Principal Medical Officer simply because he received



£800 ; while the latter drew, for his Civil Services, only £300 a year, is as groundless as it is original. A moment's reflection should have convinced him that the services of Military Medical Officers are sought for by Government for the sake of economy ; it being quite evident that such officers may be found willing to serve for an *addition* to their pay, much less than would be required to meet the wants of those who might have nothing beyond it to support them. Dr. Davey does not seem to be aware that the Reports and Instructions of Hanwell asylum were forwarded through the Colonial Secretary's Office, to the Principal Civil Medical Officer for *his guidance*, and that they had reached the Medical Office here two months before his own arrival.

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## CHAPTER II.

*The Ceylon Press.*

DR. DAVEY appears to smart under some strictures which were published in the *Ceylon Times*, of which he has done me the honor of considering me the author. It is not for me to inform him whether he is right or wrong in his conjecture; he has done all in his power to *punish* me for having written in the *Ceylon Times* in my own name *and on his own invitation*, and the signally abortive nature of his attempt he has published to the world! It is in connection with these published strictures that Dr. Davey has ventured to asperse my character,—and in its vindication, it becomes my painful duty to expose certain *irregularities* of his which, under any other circumstances I would refrain from publishing.

Dr. Davey *misstates* the case, when he says “*In what way can I be held responsible for the mention of my name in connection with an apparent amelioration of the insane in Ceylon?*” No one did blame him for that; nor did any of his “*literary opponents*,” as he calls them ever envy him any part of the *notoriety* or *praise* that he received from the *Colombo Observer*, however little the latter might have been deserved.

He must remember that the *Colombo Observer* was the first to raise a discussion of his merits and that in praising him, it condemned, *and that most unjustly*, the Principal Civil Medical Officer for

having diminished the scale of diets, and so caused an increase of the mortality among the insane. He must have understood, if he had had any understanding at all, that it was this attempt on the part of the *Observer* to build up his reputation at the sacrifice of that of another, that called down the severe, but most merited strictures of the *Times*. He must have known that I was pointed at as the author of at least one of the leading articles of the *Times*, in these very polite words, which I extract from the *Observer* of the 5th June 1848 "believing that we trace a family resemblance in the length of the article in the *Times* to the writer of it." It must have been evident to him that this vulgar allusion was intended to apply to me, because he had seen me often enough to know that my stature considerably exceeds the average stature of men. It is clearly demonstrable from his work which I am now considering, that he still believes me to be the author of the letter of CELSUS, although I have publicly stated that I am not. He must have been aware of all this, although it is to be hoped that the questioners in Ceylon to whom he alludes were not, and yet he, in common with them, asks on what grounds I should have replied to his letter which appeared in the *Ceylon Times* of the 7th July 1848, and in which he gave CELSUS THE LIE!\* It is surely unnecessary for me to say that I answered

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\* "The reader may be disposed to ask, as many in Ceylon did, what is all this to Dr. Grant?"

Dr. Davey's letter because I was *the only person* pointed at as one of the anonymous contributors to the *Times*; and because if I had failed to have done so, I must have lain under the imputation of having been "*the author of a most unwarrantable falsehood*"! It was generally believed here that I was the author of CELSUS.

It is remarkable that Dr. Davey should have made no extracts from his own letter, although, with the want of candour which I regret to say is too apparent throughout his writings, he *misquotes* or misrepresents the meaning of mine *upon two occasions*. It would be a pity that any of the writings of this *accomplished*, and *polished* author should be lost to the Public; and on this account I will re-print Dr. Davey's letter, which *modesty*, or a *sense of shame*, may have prevented *him* from doing; I will place my own letter *in reply to it*, in juxta position, and leave my readers to decide as to how far Dr. Davey is authorised to write the word "*gentleman*" in *italics* or place a point of interrogation after it, when he applies the epithet to me,

## DR. DAVEY'S LETTER.

(Extract.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE  
CEYLON TIMES.

SIR,—In your last issue is contained a letter signed *Celsus* and who like other of your late correspondents has chosen to veil himself in the obscurity of an assumed appellation; for what reason he *Celsus* best knows—my object in writ-

## DR. GRANT'S REPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE  
CEYLON TIMES.

SIR.—I am not the author of *Celsus*, nor do I know who is, but this I do know,—that the communication of *Celsus* appears to me exceedingly fair, that I believe it to be in every respect *true*, although it may be a little too matter of *fact* to suit Dr. Davey's taste.

ing to you is not to censure his spirit of economy nor to cast a doubt on the conclusions given—but to tell *Celsus* that he is the author of a most unwarrantable falsehood—and that however “questionable” he may consider his “facts” he, *Celsus* is without the shadow of an authority for their support. I call on him to prove that I do *not* visit the New Lunatic Hospital at Marandahn *daily*. I challenged him to deny me when I add that occasionally, I visit the institution *twice*—and that I have gone there three times a day.

Allow me to take this opportunity to observe—in contradiction of an opinion which I learn has gone abroad—that the present is the *first* occasion of my having taken up my pen in this matter. Not only am I not the author of so much as a single word of any editorial or anonymous contribution having reference to myself or the LUNATIC HOSPITAL—but what is more I was, up to the time of publication, as ignorant of all such as any one of your *Kandy* or *Jaffna* Subscribers may be supposed to be of this letter, I am now inditing—or of your coming editorial.

I am not aware of the source, or first cause of the *passions* and *prejudices* which

I dislike to see the *lie direct* given to any statement written or spoken, anonymous or avouched; and it is fortunate that this *mode of argument* always tells against the person who forgets himself so far as to adopt it. I would ask Dr. Davey what particular assertion of *Celsus* he brands with the infamy of FALSEHOOD. If he will assert that from the time he has assumed the duties of his appointment, he has regularly visited the Hospital at Hendelle, or at Marandahn *even once a day*, excepting of course all occasions on which he may have had leave of absence, I will then, failing proof to the contrary, admit that *Celsus* has been in error. If he will declare that he has at all times performed his duty regularly, conscientiously, and well, he will declare what he himself may possibly believe, but what, as being a matter of opinion, he has no right to insist on others believing also. If he will say that he has invariably treated the Principal Civil Medical Officer with that deference, and respect which were due from him, as a Subordinate Member of the Civil Medical Service, he will find that that on this point also there may be two opinions. Moreover, *if he really does not know* in what respects he



have prompted your literary assistants—but if they are not ashamed of their several names—as I am not of my own—and will allow me an opportunity, I might then convince them—how much and seriously they have injured the good cause of truth and equity by the course pursued—and you Sir, like your anonymous correspondents—have subjected yourself to a share of this discredit—if all your editorials emanate from your own pen—but not otherwise. I beg to assure you that however much I may be, and am disinclined to reply to *prejudices* and *misrepresentations*—although directed towards myself. I am ever ready to meet an opposition when it is commenced and carried on in a spirit of fairness—or when directed by reason and honesty of purpose.

Let me recommend to *Celsus* if he will deny a Medical brother both zeal and conscientious principle not again to shelter himself by a false title—and in this one particular copy my example and sign his name in full—should he adopt this practice I think he will no longer doubt the value of my "*particular services.*"

\* \* \* \* \*

(Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M.D.  
[*Ceylon Times*, 7th July,  
1848.

has fallen short of the due performance of his duty; he may ascertain that point, if he will only put himself in communication with the Medical Office.

Dr. Davey's instructions direct him to visit the Lunatic Asylum *at least twice a day*, and, such being the case, he gives a very useless defiance when he challenges *Celsus* to prove that he has not "*occasionally*" visited the Institution *twice*, or that he has not gone there three times in a day. This little word "*occasionally*" which Dr. Davey himself has used, can only tend to strengthen the implied suspicion of *Celsus* that he has not performed his duty with zeal.

There can be no doubt that Dr. Davey *has not brought himself forward* in the columns of the *Observer*, because he says positively that he has not done so; but there can be as little doubt that he has *allowed himself to be brought forward* as a man of *peculiar attainments*, in articles which have appeared at different times in that paper, and in which his name has been freely used in connexion with the most unjust, and unwarranted reflections on the Medical Department, both Military and Civil;—the amount of judgment and good taste which he has displayed in

NOTE—After what I have said in explanation of my reasons for answering Dr. Davey's letter, and in the face of such a document as it is, how can he, with anything like "*honesty of purpose*" say that my answer to it was an *unprovoked attack*, or why did he not submit a copy of his own letter to the Governor as well as one of mine?

having done so, he himself may estimate.

I trust that Dr. Davey will not object to this communication as having been dictated by any thing but a "*spirit of fairness*," I have written upon *the most certain authority*, with the view of vindicating the Medical Department to which I belong from the unjust aspersions which have been cast upon it, and of pointing out to Dr. Davey the error which I think he has fallen into in having expressed himself so strongly in his reply to *Celsus*. I disown all "*passions*" and "*prejudices*" as well as the slightest wish or intention to make any "*misrepresentations*." I regret, on Dr. Davey's account that this discussion should have gone so far; but I think it must be evident, even to him, that he is indebted to the mistaken friendship of the *Observer*, and perhaps, in some degree, to his own want of reflection, for its having done so.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,  
 (Signed) J. M. GRANT, M. D.  
*Staff Assistant Surgeon.*  
 [*Ceylon Times*, 11th July,  
 1848.]

*Extract from the letter of "Celsus," from the "Ceylon Times" of the 4th July, 1848.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CEYLON TIMES.

"MR. EDITOR,—I have been surprised to see the conduct of Government denounced as 'wicked, and impolitic' because it has seen fit to discontinue an appointment of the most expensive character in the Medical Department, the duties of which can be provided for quite as effectively, and at far less cost. That the necessity for economy is urgent all will admit, and that there is room for it in the quarter selected, will appear evident, on contrasting the present cost of the Colombo portion of the Colonial Medical Department, with what it was before we fancied ourselves possessed of untold treasures, and indulged the rage for new appointments, and augmented salaries. I shall place the two in juxtaposition, for this is the age of figures:—

1844.	1848.
Superintendent of Vaccination... .. £ 90	Superintendent of Vaccination..... £ 90
Medical Sub-Assistant Pauper Hospital..... 100	Medical Assistant Pauper Hospital... .. 250
Ditto Leper and Lunatic ditto..... 82	Ditto Sub-Assistant ditto ditto..... 150
Medical Attendant on the Jail..... 90	Ditto ditto Leper Hospital... .. 110
Total cost per annum £ 362	Superintendent of Lunatics... .. 800
	Medical Sub-Assistant for ditto... .. 150
	Medical Attendant on the Jail... .. 90
	Total per annum.....£1,640

"The above statement speaks for itself. I am not aware of any particular services rendered by Dr. Davey which should cause regret for his loss, on the part of the tax paying, and philanthropic public—that gentleman's most injudicious friends dragged his name before the colony—it appears on enquiry, that after pocketing £3,200 for superintending our Lunatics, he is unable to converse with one of them without an interpreter; and that they

are practically left in care of a Ceylonese Sub-Assistant just as formerly, Dr. Davey omitting even the formality of a daily visit. I say nothing whatever of talents and acquirements, but I ask do the above unquestionable facts show either zeal, or conscientious discharge of duty, such as should cause regret at ceasing to pay Dr. Davey the small trifle of £800 a year?"

It was this extract that raised the ire of Dr. Davey; and yet it seems to me now, as it did formerly, to be a fair, and dispassionate statement of facts.

Dr. Davey admits that at one time he was *not* in the habit of paying daily visits to his hospital, and quotes a letter addressed to him by Dr. St. John, Principal Civil Medical Officer, in which he is severely reprimanded for the irregularity of his attendance;—and I will show as I proceed that he *did not* perform his duty either with *zeal* or *conscientiousness*.

In connexion with the above extract from the letter of CELSUS I beg to point out the *misrepresentation*, and *misquotation* of my letter, which I have already alluded to. At page 58, Dr. Davey, talking of me, says "one J. M. Grant \* \* \* \* incurred the responsibility of vindicating the aforesaid CELSUS the assertions made by whom he declared '*in every respect TRUE*;' and thereby very *politely*, and *generously* falsifying my denial."\* Now a reference to my letter will show that I did no such thing; and that I simply expressed MY BELIEF of the accuracy of the statements referred

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\* *Good grammar?*

to. Again, at page 59, he says that I have implied that he had not treated the Principal Medical Officer with respect, whereas I only said "if he" (Dr. Davey) "will say that he has invariably treated the Principal Medical Officer with that respect and deference which were due from him, *as a subordinate member of the Civil Medical Service*, he will find that on this point also, there may be two opinions." Dr. Davey has wisely refrained from ratifying the condition on which alone he could have expected any expressions of *my* opinion on the subject. He has never said that he has invariably treated the Principal Medical Officer with due respect, so that he has himself to blame for any implication there may be of his not having done so.

I pass now to the consideration of that part of Dr. Davey's work in which he has dared, to vilify and malign my character. He has twisted, and turned a letter addressed by the Honorable the Major General Commanding the Forces to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, in answer to one from the latter, enclosing a complaint made against me by Dr. Davey *for having answered his own letter at his own request!* Dr. Davey could disregard the Minute he refers to, in the first instance; he *could even invite public discussion*; but he found, when his letter was met by one from myself, and bearing my own signature, that the aforesaid Minute prevented him from entering into *any discussion with DR. GRANT!* Nay more, he reported me to His Excellency the Governor, without taking the usual *fair and manly* course of furnishing me with a report that he had



done so. He has, as I have already said, twisted and turned the Major General's letter to suit his own end. He has placed a construction upon it which it was never intended to bear. Like a *beaten cur*, he has shewn his teeth and snarled only when he considered himself at a safe distance; he has yelped out "*Grant is not to be believed*," when he thought himself secure from punishment!!

It will appear from the annexed correspondence, that I have lost no time in clearing my character from the foul slander which has been cast upon it; and I have the gratification of thinking that my vindication will be read in circles to which neither Dr. Davey, nor his work would be admitted. But I must leave this part of my subject as one calculated to give rise to a heat of expression which I would, if possible avoid. Let the following correspondence speak for itself and for *me*!

COLOMBO, 7th March, 1850.

SIR,—I have the honor to request that you may be pleased to lay the enclosed letter before the Hon'ble the Major General Commanding.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. M. GRANT, M. D.  
Staff Asst. Surgeon.

S. C. ROE, Esq., M. D.

Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals and Principal Medical Officer.

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COLOMBO 7th March, 1850.

SIR,—I beg leave most respectfully to call your attention to the subjoined extract from a book just published by Dr. Davey late Superintendent of the Loper and Lunatic Hospitals in Ceylon, which has reference to a letter published by me in the *Ceylon Times* of the 11th July, in answer to

one by Dr. Davey which appeared in the same paper of the 7th July 1848. The extract is as follows:—

“The Major General very properly expressed his disapproval of the conduct of Assistant Surgeon Grant.”

*Mental Pathology by Dr. Davey, page 62.*

Such a statement as this published to the world is calculated to do me a very serious injury,—and on this account I hope you will excuse my asking you whether or not you have ever expressed *officially* any such disapprobation of my conduct as you are here represented to have done. I have dwelt upon the word “officially” because the *private* expression of opinion is not, under any circumstances, a legitimate subject of *public* comment.

I may perhaps be allowed to take this opportunity of calling your attention to another part of the same work where, at page 59, Dr. Davey refuses credence to a *published statement* of mine in these words “I have heard it denied”—“Grant is not to be believed”, “said a Medical Gentleman in my hearing.”

I trust that a charge of this serious nature adduced after the lapse of so long a time and from such a very great and safe distance, may in your estimation, reflect more upon the person who has preferred it than upon him whom it is intended to injure.

I deny the charge most emphatically, and indignantly, and I defy any man breathing to substantiate such an allegation against me. Dr. Davey had ample time between the date of the publication of my letter, and that of his departure from Ceylon, to have preferred any such charge if he had dared to have done so, and I hope it is unnecessary for me to assure you that I would have been found as ready to answer to it then as I now am to do so in presence of any tribunal in the world.

As an Officer serving under your command, I have deemed it my duty to bring this matter to your notice; and if I have trespassed too much upon your time, I can only plead as apology that, situated as I now am, the means of legal redress are beyond my reach. I have considered it incumbent upon me to do all in my power to vindicate my character here,—while for its more public vindication which the published statements of Dr. Davey

render necessary, I must have recourse to the Military Journals at home.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. M. GRANT, M. D.

*Staff Assistant Surgeon*

The Hon'ble Major General SMELT, C. B.,

*Commanding the Forces.*

No. 1,095.

COLOMBO, 15th March, 1850.

SIR,—I am directed by the Hon'ble the Major General Commanding the Forces to acknowledge the receipt of your letter addressed to him of the 7th instant requesting his attention to a passage extracted from a work recently published by Dr. Davey, to the effect that the Major General had expressed disapprobation of your conduct on some occasion, and in reply I am directed to convey to you the Major General's assurance that he has not in any one instance found reason for the slightest rebuke upon your conduct either professionally or otherwise, nor could the Major General recall to mind any grounds for Dr. Davey's assertions unless Dr. Davey has misunderstood his sentiments which were conveyed in a letter to the Colonial Secretary on the 24th July, 1848, a copy of which for your own satisfaction and information, I am directed herewith to enclose, together with that addressed to the Colonial Secretary by Dr. Davey.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HEW D. FANSHAWE,

*Assistant Military Secretary.*

STAFF ASSISTANT SURGEON DR. GRANT,

*Colombo.*

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

*Colombo, July 18th, 1848.*

No. 281.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to submit for the consideration of the Major General Commanding the Forces, copy of a letter from Dr. Davey, at present employed in the Medical Service of this Government, referring to a communication published in the *Times* newspaper and bearing the signature of Dr. Grant of the Military Medical Department, which the former Gentleman terms a most unjustifiable and unprovoked

attack upon him in his Official capacity of Medical Attendant of the Lunatic Asylum.

Dr. Davey is prevented under the instructions conveyed by the Minute referred to by him (copy of which is enclosed) from entering into a discussion with Dr. Grant.

The office copy of the newspaper in which Dr. Grant's letter is published is enclosed.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. MORRIS,  
*Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

*The Assistant Military Secretary,*  
&c.      &c.

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COLOMBO, July 18th, 1848.

SIR,—The peculiar position in which I am at present placed with reference to my office as Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, induces me to request you will bring under the notice of the Right Hon'ble the Governor a letter addressed by Staff Assistant Surgeon Grant to the Editor of the *Times*, containing a most unjustifiable and unprovoked attack on me as Medical Attendant of that Institution. My first impulse on perusal of Dr. Grant's letter was to reply to it thro' the same public channel as he has chosen to avail himself of—but on reference to a minute by the Governor dated 15th October, 1838—I find that that course would have been highly objectionable, and that the most regular, as well as courteous method I can adopt to seek redress and uphold the integrity of my professional character is to throw myself on the protection of His Excellency—respectfully entreating that he will be pleased to take such steps in the matter as may appear to him most consistent with the rules of the Service, and best adapted to vindicate my proceedings from such unmerited aspersions as Dr. Grant has thought fit to cast upon them.

I may observe in explanation that Dr. Grant's letter had reference to one written by me in reply to a communication signed *Celsus* published in the *Times* of the 4th Instant—containing a critique on certain Medical Department matters and accusing me of neglect of duty in not visiting my Hospital "daily." To an anonymous attack of such a nature I could reply only as I have done; but when a Medical Officer holding the

position which Dr. Grant does, thinks proper to come forward in his own name, as my public accuser—I feel myself called upon to seek redress in this legitimate manner—and I doubt not that I shall be protected by His Excellency from such reflections being cast upon me by any Officer to whom the Minute alluded to is intended to apply.

I have, &c.,  
 (Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.,  
*Superintendent of the Lunatic Hospital.*

A True Copy,  
 (Signed) W. MORRIS.

The Hon'ble Sir J. E. TENNENT,  
 &c. &c. &c.

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COLOMBO, 24th July, 1848.

No. 293.

SIR,—Having laid before the Major General Commanding the Forces your letter No. 281 of the 18th instant and its enclosures, I am directed to inform you that having read with care the letter addressed to you by Dr. Davey and that published in the *Times* newspaper bearing the signature of Assistant Surgeon Grant. The Major General can see nothing in Dr. Grant's letter which in any way subjects him to the Pale of Military rule, and altho' the Major General cannot but discountenance the practice of Military Officers engaging in any altercation thro' the public press—he has no course open to him in the present case by which he can assist in affording the protection sought for by Dr. Davey.

The office copy of the newspaper in which Dr. Grant's letter is published is returned as requested.

I have, &c.,  
 (Signed) HEW D. FANSHAWE,  
*Assistant Military Secretary.*

*The Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary.*

(True Copies.)

(Signed) HEW D. FANSHAWE,  
*Assistant Military Secretary.*

NOTE—The preceding correspondence was sent to the *Naval and Military Gazette* together with the following



letter to the Editor of that journal, by the Mail of the 15th March, 1850, the first that left Ceylon after Dr. Davey's work had reached it.

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COLOMBO, CEYLON, 15th March, 1850.

SIR,—May I be allowed to request the favour of your giving as early publication as you may find convenient to the accompanying copies of correspondence, which have reference to certain statements affecting my character published by Dr. Davey in his work entitled "MENTAL PATHOLOGY," which has just passed through the Press.

I am of course anxious to vindicate not only my own reputation, but that of the Service to which I have the honour to belong from any aspersions of the nature of those adduced by Dr. Davey; and although I may have a future opportunity of exposing other inaccuracies of which that gentleman has been guilty,—I have considered it right to lose no time in giving a denial to those statements which more immediately affect myself, in a manner as public as that in which they have been advanced.

I have the honour, &c.,

J. M. GRANT, M. D.,

Staff Assistant Surgeon.

To the Editor of the Naval and Military Gazette.

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## CHAPTER III.

*Dr. Davey's position at Hanwell in relation to the Resident Physician.*

IT will be seen by the subjoined instructions to the Medical Officers at Hanwell that Dr. Davey was not the principal person there, that he wished to make himself here, and that he was completely under the control of the Resident Physician, who had power even to 'suspend' him. The following are extracts from the instructions of "THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN" at Hanwell\* :—

" 29. He shall be a Doctor of Medicine, and a Fellow or Licentiate of the College of Physicians of London, Edinburgh, or Dublin.

" 30. He shall be the principal Officer of the Asylum, to whom all other persons therein must be subordinate. He shall give up the whole of his time to its duties. He shall not have any interest in, or connection with, any other house for the reception of Lunatics, either directly, or indirectly, nor professionally attend any private patient.

" 31. He shall exercise a continual superintendence over the whole Asylum, be entirely responsible for the classification, medical arrangements and general treatment of the Patients, and be required to report to the Visiting Justices any neglect or abuse that may come to his knowledge in any other department.

" 32. The Statistical and Medical Registers and Returns shall be under his superintendence and responsibility.

" 34. He shall attend at the County day of the Quarter Sessions and at the Committees of the Visiting Justices.

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\* This office is held at present by Dr. Conolly who succeeded Dr. Millingen, an officer on half pay of the Army Medical Department, *but not the less talented on that account.*

He shall never absent himself for more than one night without leave in writing from the Chairman, or two Visiting Justices, nor without giving the House Surgeons all necessary directions.

"36. He shall order and be responsible for the purchase and application of all Drugs and Medicines \* \* \*

"39. He shall, if he see cause, in case of the misconduct of any officer, suspend such officer from the discharge of his or her duty until the next Meeting of the Visiting Justices, entering such suspension with the reasons thereof in the Report Book, and giving immediate notice to the Chairman."

The following are the instructions of "THE HOUSE SURGEONS."\*

"48. They shall be Members of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Apothecaries Company; they shall reside in the Asylum, and be under the immediate control and direction of the Resident Physician.

"49. They shall not practice in their profession, nor have any connexion directly or indirectly with any other Establishment for Lunatics either public or private. They shall attend, in their respective departments, the Overseers of the Poor and Parochial Medical Officers when visiting the Patients of their respective parishes.

"50. They shall examine each Patient on admission, and report the result to the Physician in order to receive his directions, and shall enter in a Book, and report through the Resident Physician to the Committee, all cases of Patients who may be admitted into the Asylum, in restraint, or in a filthy, wounded, or bruised state.

"51. They shall attend the Physician through the Wards when required, and make up the Medicines, and take care that the same are properly administered; and shall not remove any patients from one Ward to another without the sanction of the Resident Physician, unless in cases of emergency, to be immediately reported to him.

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\* Of these there are two at Hanwell—Dr. Davey was one of them, and his salary was £150 a-year, with board and lodging in the Asylum, not £600 a-year, as stated by himself, and generally believed in Ceylon.

“ 52. They shall visit every Ward and Patient at least twice every day, and shall see and order the requisite diet for all who are in the sick-list before ten o'clock every morning. They shall also make occasional visits at uncertain times, to the different Wards, before the Attendants rise in the morning and similar visits at night, after the patients are in bed.

“ 53. They shall examine the evening Reports of the Ward Attendants and transmit them to the Physician adding, when necessary, their own Report of the state of the Wards and of any infringement of the rules, and shall in every respect conform to the general plan of the Physician for the treatment and government of the patients.

“ 54. They shall keep a Book in which shall be daily entered all accidents, escapes, the number of sick, the number of hours in which each patient has been kept in seclusion, and such other particulars as may be required by the Resident Physician, and send such book to the Resident Physician every evening with the Ward Attendant's Reports.”

Regulations for the Management, and Conduct of the Pauper Lunatic Asylum at Hanwell, made, and concluded June 29th, 1843.

P. 10 to 15.

The above Regulations appear to me to furnish a most apposite and appropriate answer to the objection proposed by Dr. Davey at page 18 of his introduction, in the following words—“ If it were, or had been the pleasure of the Secretary of State to subject me to a *Military* superior like this,” (meaning the Principal *Civil* Medical Officer) “ one so strangely conjured up, surely he would not have sought one where he did me, viz. at “ HANWELL.” Why not? HANWELL was of all places the proper one in which to look for a person accustomed to render that implicit obedience,—and to respect, and act up to a system of subordination without which no man can be of the slightest use to any Public

Service. It has been well said that "habit is second nature"; and it will be no difficult task to prove that Dr. Davey, having been accustomed to close supervision at Hanwell, required the same treatment in Ceylon.

Not one man in a thousand would have failed to perceive, when he accepted an appointment such as that which Dr. Davey did accept, that he made himself a servant to the Colony from which he received his pay; and not one in TWENTY THOUSAND would have questioned the right of the local Government to manage the affairs of an Institution established and maintained at their own expense, in the way that seemed best to themselves. Who are the Visiting Justices at Hanwell, and what is their Medical knowledge of insanity, or any other human malady; and yet who objects to their jurisdiction over the finance and general conduct of that Asylum? Dr. Davey ought to know that in every Hospital for the treatment of disease either mental, or bodily, there is much arrangement of detail required which does not fall under the strict boundary of professional duty. If he had any but the most superficial knowledge of Military matters; he would be aware that Medical Officers of long standing, and experience in the Army are, of all others, the best adapted to superintended such details; because, in every Military Hospital in which they have ever served, they have been held as strictly responsible for this part of their duty, as they have been for the Medical treatment of their patients. If he had



any "*reflection*" he would perceive that without a mutual responsibility on the part of the different officers; and *without a head*, no Public Institution, or Public Service can be expected to prosper. If he had had any discernment, or good taste, he would have known that vulgar personalities, and sweeping unfounded censures, either against individuals, or Public Departments, are calculated to injure any cause in the advocacy of which they may be had recourse to!

Such personalities as those in which Dr. Davey has indulged not only against Dr. Roe, and myself, but against Mr. Ebert, the Chief Medical Clerk, and his son,—to both of whom he is indebted for much personal kindness, and much diminution of the *labours* of his appointed duties in Ceylon, scarcely call for the slight notice which I have here bestowed upon them. Not so however with statements affecting either private, or professional character!

When Dr. Davey shall have attained the same professional eminence as Dr. Graves, from whose work our clinical Medicine I subjoin an extract. When he shall be as well known, and appreciated as that able, and accomplished author,—I will then, *but not till then*, allow the same weight to his opinion.

At page 296—of Dr. Graves' work, Lecture 24, the following passage occurs:—

"I hold in my hand a report, by my friend Dr. Roe, containing a return of the venereal patients treated in the 38th Regimental Hospital, from the 11th of June

1836 to the 15th of November, 1837; giving in separate columns the names, ages, forms of disease, periods of admission and discharge, duration of the treatment, and remarks. The compiler, Dr. Roe, was a fellow student of mine, educated in Dublin, and always noted for his intelligence, accomplishments, and steadfast zeal for his profession. Under Dr. Colles, and the Surgeons of the Lock Hospital, he had ample opportunities of witnessing the effects of the Mercurial treatment of syphilis. He has treated the diseases in the East Indies, the Ionian Islands, and at home, and from his habits of observation, sagacity, and attention, any statement coming from him must be very valuable."

In contrast to the above, I will place the following extract from Dr. Davey's work:—

"At colonial settlements not yet emerged from the *Military* character, and in the absence of a respectable civil community necessary to the existence of municipal corporations, &c., *on the Medical Officers of the Army* devolve the duties more properly belonging to the Civil Surgeon; and inasmuch as my own appointment in Ceylon was thought an infringement of this rule, we are at no loss to account for the hostilities manifested by the Senior Military Surgeons MESSRS. ST. JOHN AND ROE, who as 'birds of passage,' are intent only on promotion; who, without local interest, or reputation of any kind, except that which belongs to old age, could hardly be expected to co-operate with one whose appointment was said to be rendered necessary only on account of the incompetency or neglect of the Military Medical Staff."

This is a fair sample of the tone and temper of Dr. Davey's writing, but, offensive as the task is, I consider it my duty to make some comments upon it.

This passage involves two statements or rather *mis statements* as groundless, and unfounded, as they are unjust and unreasonable. Dr. Davey has *not* met with hostilities from the Senior Military Surgeons "MESSRS. ST. JOHN AND ROE," as, with characteristic insolence, he styles them; and if he

expects to attain a reputation which may at all approach that enjoyed by either of the Officers whom he has selected as the objects of his malice, he must appear before the public in a very different light from that in which he now appears, as the author of "MENTAL PATHOLOGY."

It has never been publicly stated by any person but Dr. Davey himself that his appointment was rendered necessary by the "*incompetency and neglect of the Military Medical Staff*" The Medical Department of the Army is too well known for its general professional efficiency, and scientific attainments, to suffer any but a local, and temporary injury from the statements of such a man as him! An unwarranted and egotistical declaration like this of Dr. Davey's, deserves to be censured as *untrue*; while it may be pitied for the *little mindedness* of which it convicts its author.

Dr. Davey enjoyed advantages in connexion with the treatment of the insane in Ceylon, which never were enjoyed by any Officer in the Army who preceded him in the charge—and of these advantages he has failed to avail himself, for the benefit of his patients, in all cases where he has *positively abused* them.

Those who may have read his book, and *believed its contents*, will start with astonishment when they hear that his appointment, or rather, *that of* "a person duly qualified" was recommended by the PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICER, who was consulted on the subject by the Colonial Government, before the recommendation of the Legislative

Council was acted on ; but strange as it may appear, such is the fact, as the following letters will show. So much again for Dr. Davey's *intrusion* on the Colonial Medical Service!!

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
Colombo, 14th September, 1843.

No. 173.

SIR,—I am directed to request that you will transmit to me a return of the number of Lunatics and of Patients other than lunatics or lepers who are now subsisted in the Leper Hospital at Hendelle.

The number of lunatics in confinement either at the Leper Hospital or in charge of the Fiscal is so considerable that it becomes urgently necessary to construct a proper Lunatic Asylum, and upon full consideration it has been decided to adhere to the resolution adopted some years back of placing this establishment at Wellikadde.

In the Legislative Council the propriety has been strongly urged, of endeavouring to procure from England a person duly qualified to take charge of a Lunatic Establishment to be placed in the superintendence of the projected Establishment, and I am to request your opinion upon the proposition.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) P. ANSTRUTHER,  
Civil Servant.

*The Principal Civil Medical Officer.*

PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICER'S OFFICE.  
Colombo, 16th September, 1843.

No. 190.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 14th instant No. 173, I have the honor to forward you the annexed Return therein requested for the information of Government.

With respect to the last paragraph of your communication, I am decidedly of opinion that it would be desirable to procure a person from England duly qualified for the charge of a Lunatic Asylum to superintend the

projected Establishment—and more especially if it is to be placed on the most approved European system.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE BARCLAY, M. D.

*Principal Civil Medical Officer.*

Numerical Return of Patients in the Leper Hospital at Hendelle.

Lunatics.....	20
Lepers.....	21
Other cases... ..	22

Total 63

(Signed) GEORGE BARCLAY, M. D.

*Principal Civil Medical Officer.*

COLOMBO, 16th September, 1843.

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## CHAPTER IV.

*Dr. Davey unqualified for the appointment of Superintendent of the Lunatics in Ceylon.*

I HAVE already noticed the exaggerated ideas which Dr. Davey's writings show that he entertained of his own importance; I have made extracts from his book which prove that his personal importance was at all times a subject of the first consideration with him—so that I have only now to demonstrate in what manner his sense of his own dignity led to insubordination on his part, and consequent confusion, delay, and inconvenience as regarded the Civil Medical Service to which he belonged—and how far it affected the immediate, or ultimate welfare of the “INSANE POOR,” for whom Dr. Davey professes to have felt such a warm interest and affection.

It is needless to multiply extracts from Dr. Davey's work, for in serious truth, there is no part of it worth re-printing; but yet the following extract from one of his letters written in reply to a censure conveyed to him by the Principal Civil Medical Officer for not having his Register of cases at the Hospital, ready at all times for the inspection of his superior, requires notice and comment:—

“As regards the Medical Registers,” writes Dr. Davey to his superior Dr. St. John, “I regret that they did not happen to be at Hendelle when you visited it. As there is no place at Hendelle wherein I can write, I am compelled now and then to bring them to my own residence.

You request that in future I do not remove them from Hendelle—I will endeavour to do as you desire me.”

Here is a pretty specimen of insubordination! The record book of the cases which it was his duty to fill in *daily* at the bed side of his patients, or in the wards, he takes to his own residence “*now and then.*” He regrets that it did not “*happen*” to be at the Hospital when Dr. St. John paid his official visit of inspection; whereas it never should have *happened*, to have been at any other place. He is ordered by Dr. St. John not again to remove it from the Hospital, and he replies “I will *endeavour* to do as you desire me”!!!

Those who have ever been employed in any public service, or who know the value of discipline in every sphere of life, and under all circumstances, will be able to estimate the propriety or impropriety of such an answer. I might multiply extracts, as I have said before, and form a volume from the Official Correspondence which has passed concerning Dr. Davey—I have now before me no fewer than fourteen large volumes of records furnished me by the Principal Medical Officer. They contain all Dr. Davey's official letters, to which there is an easy index in the shape of slips of paper inserted between the leaves—but the above I have deemed sufficient for my present purpose. I have selected it because, in its main features, it resembles all the others, and because Dr. Davey himself has thought proper to publish it.

One great disaster which attended Dr. Davey's insubordination was the result of his placing himself

in *immediate communication* with the Colonial Government, instead of transmitting all his official letters through the Principal Civil Medical Officer, the Head of the Department to which he belonged.

It was easy, by plausible arguments, and by keeping back the main, and more important facts, to lead the late, and much respected Governor of Ceylon, Sir Colin Campbell, to suppose that “*irregular visits*” were preferable to *those paid at stated hours* to an institution set apart for the insane. Sir Colin Campbell was an old soldier, more accustomed to try the temper of his steel, than the motives of individuals with whom he came in contact, and on this account, he fell into the trap so carefully prepared for him by Dr. Davey.

Had Dr. Davey directed the Governor’s attention to the instructions which he was required to obey at Hanwell—had he told him that here, as there, it was right, and needful that he should pay morning visits, with the view of ascertaining the state of health of his patients,—the quality, and quantity of the provisions; ordering and administering Medicines to all patients on the sick list, and seeing that the Medicines which he did order were duly administered (a most important duty while he had no Medical Sub-Assistant under him) marking the diet table for the following day, and the extra diet table for the current, making out the various Returns which required his signature BEFORE BEING TRANSMITTED to the Principal Civil Medical Officer. Had he insisted upon the

importance of regularity on the part of every officer, and servant attached to the Institution, as forcibly as he did to the Colonial Secretary.\* Had he stated that any appearance of irregularity, or indifference on the part of the Physician, or Superintendent was calculated to give rise to misrule, and disorder throughout the Establishment. Had he told the Governor that the more immediate object of his *evening* visits to the Hospital was to ascertain, as before, the state of his patients; to enquire into any complaints they might have to make against any of the Ward attendants, or other subordinates, to prescribe for them, and see that any orders he had given during the day had been obeyed. Had he made a fair, ingenuous representation like the above, and explained to Sir Colin Campbell that "*irregular and unexpected*" visits were ALSO NECESSARY, to guard against neglect,

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\* "Whatever may be the advantages in the construction of the hospital, whatever may be the zeal and talents of the Physician or Superintendent, and however various and desirable the details of the establishment, as they may affect the classification, employment, amusement, and general management of the patients, if it should unfortunately happen that the household, from the Physician to his immediate Assistants, the house Steward and Matron, and on through the attendants and domestic servants, &c., is not well and systematically arranged, nothing can be expected to proceed as it ought to do."

*Mental Pathology, page 46.*

NOTE—It is remarkable that, with such clear ideas of what was right in *principle*, Dr. Davey should have so totally disregarded the *practice* of any system of "*regularity*."

or impropriety of conduct either on the part of the attendants, or the patients. Had he said that to enable him to pay such unexpected visits, it was necessary that he should live within the Asylum, or as near to it as possible; then I have no doubt that Sir Colin Campbell would have decided differently than he did both as regarded the locality of Dr. Davey's residence,\* and the nature of his Hospital attendance;—and then Dr. Davey would not

\* On Dr. Davey's arrival, or shortly afterwards, a house was hired for him, separated from the Lunatic Asylum at Hendelle only by the intervening river; and, to prevent the inconvenience experienced from the absence of ferry-boats, or their crews, a boat was purchased for the exclusive use of the Asylum. The house provided was large and commodious, and had the advantage of being within view of the Asylum so that a signal might be made at any time when Dr. Davey's presence might be required. The house, I have said, was commodious; it was rented by Government for £75 a-year exclusive of taxes—but it was *too near the Asylum*, and *too far from the gay part of Colombo*, to suit Dr. Davey, who obtained Sir Colin Campbell's leave to change his residence, and settled down at a distance of SEVEN MILES from his hospital!

It is amusing to find Dr. Davey *threatening* to return to the neighbourhood of Hendelle, if the insane were not moved to Marandahn.—(*Vile Foot note, page 63*)

There can be no doubt that such a *threat* made a *most extraordinary impression* on the Colonial Secretary who knew just as well as I do, with a copy of the official letter before me, that Dr. Davey obtained Sir Colin Campbell's leave to quit the neighbourhood of Hendelle on the 1st December 1845—just two years, and seven months before the new Lunatic Asylum was completed and two months before the building was commenced! This was certainly leaving the neighbourhood of Hendelle "*in anticipation*" of the insane being moved to Marandahn!!!



have appeared as at all wishing to gain the confidence of the Governor, with the *fixed determination of abusing it!*

Dr. Davey was supported by the late Sir Colin Campbell against the Principal Medical Officer Dr. St. John, and the result was exactly what might have been anticipated;—he neglected the insane, and committed other irregularities which I shall shortly notice. It was as impossible for him, with the ideas which he entertained, to co-operate with Dr. St. John, Dr. Roe, or any “Military Superior,” as it is for oil to mix with water; for, in the study of Moral, as of Mechanical Philosophy, we find that *levity seeks the summit*, and Dr. Davey’s case did not, most certainly, form any exception to the rule!

I have already said that Dr. Davey neglected his patients; and I now add that HE DID NOT SUPERINTEND THE LUNATIC ASYLUM AT ALL. This may seem a startling announcement, but let any one “*duly qualified*” contradict it,—keeping in mind this important fact, that the discharge of Dr. Davey’s duties did not consist in the writing of lengthy, laboured, and irrelevant letters to the Colonial Secretary!

I am credibly informed that Dr. Davey’s “*daily visits*” to the asylum at Marandahn were of the most flying description, the time spent by him among his patients not having exceeded, upon an average, *ten minutes* in the course of *twenty four hours*. Like a Medical Student of whom I have heard,

who used to walk past the *frowning front* of the Royal College of Surgeons, and cheat his friends into the fond belief that he had "*passed*," so was it with Dr. Davey's visits to his hospital here. Upon some occasions of these "*daily visits*," it appears that he did not even alight from his carriage, but merely took an outside view of the asylum, with the intention perhaps, of satisfying himself that it had not been removed during the night, and trusted to the report of the Resident Sub-Assistant, or in his absence, to that of the Overseer, as to the condition of its inmates!

Such accusations as these I would not publish against any man upon mere *exparte* statements, but I feel myself justified in publishing them against Dr. Davey, because they have an air of truth about them, supported, as they are, by collateral evidence of the most unquestionable character, of his carelessness,—aye even of his dishonesty, as a Public servant! Had I not been informed by an eminent, and experienced Lawyer that it would have been illegal for me to have placed the persons who voluntarily made the foregoing statements to me on their oaths as to the truth of what they had asserted; their *statements* would have been appended as so many *sworn affidavits*. The persons who have informed me of the negligent manner in which Dr. Davey was in the habit of performing his duties, in so far as his hospital attendance was concerned, are the Resident Sub-Assistant, Mr. J. W. Ebert; the Overseer, Mr. W. Rebert; the attendant on the male patients "*Sinha Appoo*," (a Cinghalese

man) and the attendant on the Female Patients, "Inassay" (a Cingalese woman) all of whom are ready if required, to corroborate *upon oath* what they have told me,—but this, I suppose, they will never be called upon to do.

I may here append a statement made by Dr. Davey in a foot note to page XIV of his preface together with the indignantly emphatic denial which it receives from Medical Sub-Assistant Mr. J. W. Ebert, "*Medical Resident*" at the Lunatic Hospital. *Dr. Davey's statement is the following:—*

"I am told, by the '*Medical Resident*' at the Lunatic Hospital, that however frequent Dr. Roe's visits to him may be, *yet* that he (*Dr. Roe*) has not seen the interior of the wards for so many as eight successive months. So much for his "*chief superintendence!*"

MEDICAL SUB-ASSISTANT MR. EBERT GIVES THE FOLLOWING CONTRADICTION TO THE ABOVE.

"I do hereby most solemnly declare, and am willing to declare on oath, if required, that I never did say to Dr. Davey that however frequent Dr. Roe's visits might have been to me, '*yet that he (Dr. Roe) had not seen the interior of the wards for so many as eight successive months.*'"

"I further declare that any such statement would have involved an *unjust, and false accusation against Dr. Roe.*"

(Signed) J W EBERT,  
*Resident Medical Sub-Assistant,  
Lunatic Asylum.*

COLOMBO, 30th March, 1850.

It is for the public to give credence to which ever party they may please. I believe the statement of Mr. Ebert simply because I have met with quibbling, prevarication, and want of candour in almost every page of Dr. Davey's work,—and

because I have discovered an almost incredible want of honesty in his official career in Ceylon—a want of honesty which I now proceed to *expose*.

To those who do not know the *routine* of Military Hospitals, and of the Civil Hospitals in Ceylon, which are conducted in exactly the same way, it may be necessary to mention that Returns and Reports are daily, weekly, monthly, quarter-by, half-yearly, and yearly required to be furnished to the Principal Medical Officer, for the information of the superior authorities, by every Medical Officer in charge of an Hospital—that all Requisitions for Stores and supplies of every kind are to be made by the officer in charge of the Hospital, and submitted for the approval of the Principal Medical Officer, and that, to prevent the possibility of any fraud being practised, the Medical Officer who forwards the Return or Requisition as may be, is required to place his signature as near as possible to the last line of such Return or Requisition, after having carefully examined its contents.

These instructions were as applicable to Dr. Davey as to any other Medical Officer, Military or Civil, in the Command—but the “*regularity*” of the system, like the *expected* “*regularity*” of his hospital attendance, he “*voted a bore* ;”—indeed the two were mutually dependant on each other,—so that being “*irregular*” with respect to his attendance, he was of necessity obliged to be equally “*irregular*” with respect to his Returns,—which he accordingly signed IN BLANK!!!

It is alas ! too true that he has done so ;—and

that in having done so, he has jeopardised himself. No wonder that, under the Superintendence of the Principal Medical Officer, he should have felt his position beset with "*difficulty*," and "*danger!!*" "*Grant is not to be believed*," says Dr. Davey, but the originals of the blank Returns appended with Dr. Davey's *bona fide* signature attached, may be seen at the Medical Office, Colombo!



1849.

REQUIRED for

(Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.,  
*Superintendent of Lunatic Hospital.*

SIR,

Please to order the delivery of the abovestated articles for the service specified.

The Deputy Commissary General.

RECEIVED out of Her Majesty's Stores in charge of the Deputy Commissary General the abovementioned articles for the service specified.

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NOTE.—This is a form of Requisition on the Commissariat Department for articles of equipment for the Lunatic Asylum. These forms are printed at the Government Press, and issued from the Principal Medical Officer's Office on Requisitions approved by the Principal Medical Officer.

J. M. G.

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(Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.,  
*Superintendent of Lunatic Hospital.*

NOTE.—This is the form of Casualty Report.  
J. M. G.

REPORT OF DEATH.

Description.	Name.	Age.	Disease.	Admitted	Died.	OBSERVATIONS.

(Signed.) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.  
*Superintendent Lunatic Hospital.*

NOTE.—This is the Printed Form of Death Report—one of which must be forwarded for every Patient who dies.

J. M. G.









Pulv: Antimonij Jacobi -				
— Cretæ Comp: - -				
— Ipecacuanhæ comp:				
Quassia concis: - -				
Quinine Disulph - - -				
Rhei contrit: - - - -				
Scammon: Contrit: - -				
Scillæ recens exc: contr:				
Sem æ - - - - -				
Spirit Æther: Comp: - -				
Sulphur - - - - -				
Tinct: Campor: Comp: -				
— Catechu - - - - -				
— Opii - - - - -				
Ung: Cetacei - - - - -				
— Hydrag: Fort - - - -				
— — Nitrat - - - - -				
— Sulphur Comp: - - -				
Zingiber: Contr: - - - -				

## MATERIALS.

Syringes Urethra- - - - -	
Glyster do. and pipes - -	
Lint Fine- - - - -	
Surgeon's Tow- - - - -	
Skins of Leather- - - - -	
Pins- - - - -	
Grain Scales and weights- -	
Ounce do. and do. - - -	
Pound do. and do. - - -	
Graduated Minim Measure -	
— oz. do. - - - - -	
Bolus Tiles- - - - -	
Composition Mortar & Pestle	
Small Metal do. & do.-	
Tin Paunakins- - - - -	

Tin Funnels- - - -	
Copper Decoction Pots-	
Pill Boxes Chip- - -	
Vials in sorts- - - -	
Gallipots in do. - - -	
Bottles in do. - - - -	
Vial Corks- - - - -	
Pint and Quart do. - - -	
Bungs- - - - - - -	
Pack Thread- - - - -	
Packing Cases- - - - -	
Bottles Stoppered in sorts -	
— 4 lb widemouthed -	
Pewter Bed Pans- - - -	
Surgeon's Sponges- - - -	
Bandages Calico- - - -	
— Flannel- - - - -	
Blood Porringers- - - -	
Tape- - - - - - - -	
Common Splints- - - - -	
Blus Knives- - - - -	
Counter Scissors- - - -	
Vials flint Stoppered- - -	

(Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.

*Superintendent of Lunatic Hospital.*

NOTE.—This is intended for the half yearly form of Return of Medicines and Materials required from the Military Medical Store.

J. M. G.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Invoice of Instruments, &amp;c. for the use of \_\_\_\_\_

Supplied by \_\_\_\_\_ 18

ARTICLES.	REMARKS.
Bougies, Common - - - No.	
Ditto, armed with Caustic - - - "	
Syringes, Urethra - - - "	
———Clyster and Pipes - - - "	
Spare Pipes for ditto - - - "	
Surgeon's Sponges - - - No.	
Bandages, Calico - - - "	
———Flannel - - - "	
———Linen - - - "	
———18-tailed - - - "	
Trusses, Bag - - - "	
Blood Porrhers - - - "	
Broad Tape - - - Pieces	
Thread for Ligatures - - - oz.	
Common Splints (Pott's lined) Sets	
Spreading spatula - - - No.	
Pot ditto - - - "	
Bolus Knife - - - "	

J. G. DAVEY, M. D.

*Superintendent Lunatic Hospital*

NOTE —This is the Form of receipt for Instruments supplied from the Military Medical Store. These forms are Printed in England, and sent out on Requisition.

J. M. G.

No.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON.....Dr.

To

184

For

(Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.,

184

Received from

the Sum of

sterling being in full for the  
 above account of Particulars, and for which have  
 Signed two Receipts of the same tenor and date.

*Witnesses to the Payment.*

(Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.

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NOTE.—This is a receipt for money due for special services supposed to have been rendered to the Government.

J. M. G.



These blank forms signed by Dr. Davey "*speaks volumes,*" to use his own words,—they speak volumes against himself;—they either annihilate or falsify his declared opinion of the dishonesty or unworthiness of trust of Medical Sub-Assistant Mr. Ebert; or they make him appear, *beyond all comparison*, more dishonest than the person whom he has accused of dishonesty!—Indeed, in this matter there can be no alternative—Dr. Davey must appear to disadvantage; he must appear as convicted of dishonesty, unless he can prove that these documents are spurious; he has said that he could not trust Medical Sub-Assistant Mr. Ebert,—and, in the face of that declaration, he has trusted him to the utmost, and to the most improper extent,—he has doubted his integrity,—but he has not hesitated, for the sake of saving himself some little personal trouble, and inconvenience, to expose the Colonial Government to his suspected fraud and dishonesty. He has signed blank forms, and left them to be used at discretion by the person whose honesty and integrity he has called in question!!!

It was well for Dr. Davey, and for the Colony also, that Medical Sub-Assistant Mr. Ebert was an honest man; and that he *would not*, and *did not*, abuse the confidence which was reposed in him—or turn to his own advantage the opportunity of plundering the Government which was so improperly afforded him. Mr. Ebert is to blame on one point only; he deserves censure for having allowed such a system to continue. If he had performed his duty properly, he would have lost no time in reporting an irregularity so gross, and flagrant.

to the Principal Medical Officer for the information of Government.

It now becomes necessary for Dr. Davey either to occupy the position in society, *and before the world*, in which he has endeavoured to place me, viz, that of a man who "IS NOT TO BE BELIEVED,"—or to prove that his signature has been forged; and that he never did sign, in blank, the foregoing documents *true copies* of which I have published from the originals supplied to me.

Dr. Davey was unqualified for his appointment by his want of knowledge of the language of his patients; for it is obvious that with such a deficiency, he could neither soothe, console, persuade, reprove, nor instruct them,—although these are points upon the urgent necessity and importance of which he dwells with *peculiar* emphasis in his official correspondence with the Colonial Secretary;—points which may be considered a polar star of guidance, to his "*modern and scientific treatment of the insane.*"

It may be amusing to notice the floundering and self contradiction of Dr. Davey upon this subject. At page 172 he says "*Among the many difficulties (artificial and natural) which we have experienced in Ceylon, has been that one belonging to the native languages. Not being able to hold any DIRECT communication with our patients, and therefore compelled to rely on the intervention of an interpreter, we may have failed, and do probably from time to time, to make out so accurately as we could wish, the several indications of mental disorder or recovery, as the case may be.*"

Again at page 174, and in a foot note having reference to the above remarks Dr. Davey says:—

*“This ‘difficulty’—(that of not knowing the native language) “like every other, becomes so modified by experience, that one hardly feels it in his intercourse with the sick native. Upon the same principle that those practitioners in the constant habit of treating the numerous and peculiar affections of INFANTS and CHILDREN come to possess the requisite facilities in making out their diseases, and the peculiar management each may require, so have I learned to form my diagnoses,\* and to make choice of my remedies in cases of insanity occurring among the dark races. Those anonymous scribblers in the ‘Ceylon Times’ who have thought to diminish the apparent value of my services in the Colony, in so far as the cause of the lunatic is concerned, have forgotten, in their remarks on my inability to hold personal converse with the insane, that not only does the same objection apply to the Medical Officer having care of other patients than those suffering from mental diseases, but inasmuch as the lunatic is NOT very likely to give his Medical Attendant a particularly sane account of his malady, its origin, progress, and symptoms, the advantage gained by “PERSONAL CONVERSE” with the latter named is, to say the best of it, not a little ambiguous.”*

When I consider the inconsistency, and total want of reason which these contradictory passages display, I am inclined to concur in the opinion expressed by Dr. Davey at pages 161 and 162— in these words *“when INSANITY attacks the European at Ceylon, we are much inclined to think that, AS A GENERAL RULE, it is better he should be sent home with as little delay as possible”!*

The attempt to draw a parallel between the importance of a knowledge of the native language in the treatment of the bodily and mental ailments of

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\* To form a “diagnosis” means to discriminate the nature of a disease.

the "dark races," is a bold, but unsuccessful stroke of policy! The lungs and hearts of the *dark*, and the fair races speak the same language,—and their physical condition can be alike ascertained by the sounds to which their action gives rise. The black man, if suffering from inflammation of the investing membrane of the bowels, shrinks from the pressure of the hand,—external injuries are apparent, and the signs of bodily pain are as perceptible in the black man as in the white. To remove bodily ailments, *physical remedies* are employed, while the main, and most essential treatment of insanity must be directed to the MIND. The patient must be soothed, remonstrated with, encouraged or advised; and how can this be done without a *knowledge* of his language?\*

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\* At page 179, Dr. Davey says "Exactly those means which will soothe, soften, and subdue the peevish, and angry mind of the spoiled and irritable child will '*soothe, soften and subdue,*' or what is the same thing, will restore the necessary controul and composure to the diseased volition or excited animalism of the maniac."

What would Dr. Davey think of an English parent who attempted to "*soothe, soften, and subdue the peevish and angry mind of*" his "*spoiled and irritable child*" by addressing it in the beautiful language of Horace—

"Æquam memento rebus in arduis  
Servare mentem" \* \* \*

Absurd as this may seem it would be no less absurd were Dr. Davey to address an irritable maniacal patient, who did not know any thing of English—in such words as these, which I have chosen as being a free translation of the Latin quotation—"Keep yourself composed under adversities!!"

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## CHAPTER V.

*The site and construction of the Lunatic Asylum at Borella.\**

THE most eligible site for the Lunatic Asylum has been much canvassed; and, after all the discussion, it has been built upon a swamp. Dr. Davey may say what he pleases, but any one who inspects the Asylum will see that the ground immediately behind it is decidedly swampy,—and that extensive *drainage* has been found necessary to prevent an accumulation of moisture in the soil. I inspected it the other day, and picked a flower within a few feet of its walls, which I had only met with in swampy places; this flower I sent to Mr. Thwaites, Superintendent of the Royal Botanical Garden, Peradenia—with a request that he would name it for me, and tell me whether it grew in dry or swampy places. His answer I append—it sets the question as to the nature of the soil at rest:—

“ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, PERADENIA,  
29th April. 1850.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I have just got your letter of the 26th.  
“The plant you enclose is *Clitoria trinervis*—one of

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\* Dr. Davey insists upon the importance of *sun shine* and *prospect* to a Lunatic Asylum;—that one at Borella has sun-shine in greater abundance than is beneficial to the inmates, but it has no *prospect* whatever, beyond that of being flooded, if the drains should be at any time obstructed!



the Gentian tribe. It grows in paddy fields and other moist places—not uncommon. \* \* \* \*

“ Believe me, my dear Sir,

“ Most truly your’s

(Signed) “ G. H. K. THWAITES,

“ *Superintendent.*

“ To

“ J. M. GRANT, ESQ., M. D., &c.

“ *Staff Assistant Surgeon.*

“ Colombo.”

The Asylum is situated in a valley surrounded on all sides by higher land—and much is still wanted in its construction to render it at all suitable for its purpose. Deeper verandahs are required to shelter the wards from the strong sun-shine to which they are now exposed. The cells are too low and without proper ventilation—their floors slope towards the front, instead of towards the back of the building, so that the filth, and ordure of the patients must be washed out at the doors, across the verandahs, and along the front of them.

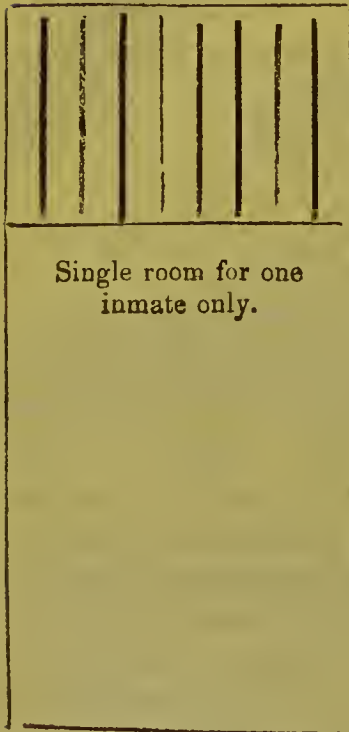
Dr. Davey objects to perforations made through some of the doors, as he says, on the recommendation of Dr. Roe, against whom he makes the existence of these holes a pretext for the most insolent invective and abuse. Dr. Roe did not recommend these holes to be made until he had been told by the Civil Engineer that sliding panels properly secured, which he did recommend, and which should have been put to all the doors *originally*, could not be had without a special and supplementary estimate.

To those who do not know that Dr. Davey wrote with the very essence of personal *pique* and malice, it

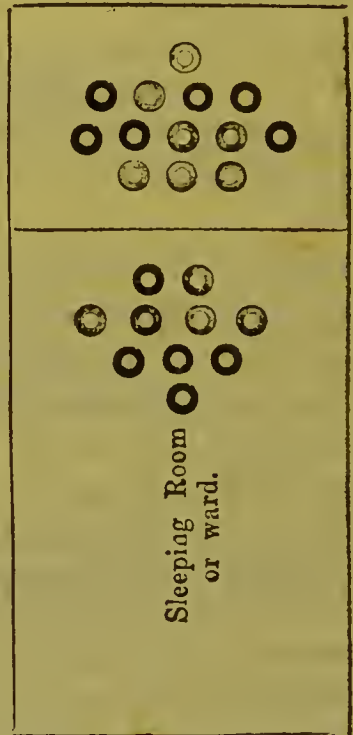
may be matter of surprise to learn that the perforated doors, and the doors of all the cells, are only six or at most 7 feet high; that there are open spaces above such of them as are not perforated, guarded by strong vertical iron bars, which bars are within easy reach of any patient, and were placed there, if Dr. Davey's statements be true, UNDER HIS OWN IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION! Each of these bars is of sufficient strength to bear the weight of a man. The perforations might *possibly* afford the means of self destruction by hanging, to a lunatic of *most determined* suicidal tendency—but they are of much use as means of ventilation; and a carefully superintending Physician would take care that no suicidal maniac should occupy such a cell, if another more secure could be provided—but for more secure cells than those the doors of which are perforated, the Asylum may be searched in vain.

The construction of the doors may be understood by reference to the following rough diagrams:—

No. 1



No. 2.



No. 1 the door of a single room, or cell, is not perforated, but it is surmounted by strong vertical iron bars 1 inch in diameter—the space between each of them being three inches—the height of these doors from the floor to the lower end of the bars, is 6 feet, 1 inch—and that of the bars, 10 inches. The single rooms being intended for one inmate only, it is at once apparent what facility there is of his committing suicide,—the patient might pass a strip torn from his cloth round one of the bars, and hang himself without any trouble.

No. 2 shows the construction of the doors of the wards or sleeping apartments which are occupied by several patients together—the door is 1 inch thick, and the perforations are 1 inch in diameter, and 2 inches apart from each other. The height from the floor to the lowest perforation being 4 feet 3 inches.

From the above measurements it will be evident that some difficulty would be experienced in using these perforations as means of self destruction, and when it is remembered that the doors of the wards only are so perforated, and that these wards are always occupied by more than one patient; generally by four or five, it will be apparent that there is an almost complete security against any attempt at suicide being successful in them.

Had Dr. Davey written with open ingenuousness, and candour; had he written, as he professes to have done, for the good of the lunatic only, and not for the gratification of the utmost malevolence; he would not have failed to have informed his readers that at every turning;—in all parts of the Lunatic Asylum, those who have any wish to hang themselves have the means at hand—that in the cases of suicide by hanging which did occur, the unfortunate sufferers were found suspended to the iron bars of the windows, and not to the doors—that in all the circular openings through the walls which are essentially required for the purpose of ventilation, there are crossed iron bars *perfectly useless*, as the apertures are not large enough to admit of the ingress or egress of a patient, and worse than useless when it is considered that they afford, the ready means of self destruction! But why insist upon points like these? The Lunatic

Asylum may be visited by any one who procures the necessary authority, and any unprejudiced or unbiassed person who may take the trouble of inspecting it, cannot fail to see that in the matter of these perforated doors, Dr. Davey has made, or endeavoured to make "A MOUNTAIN OF A MOLE HILL"!!

Dr. Davey was in such extreme haste to occupy the new asylum on account of its situation being more suited to his personal ease and convenience than that of Hendelle, that he pestered the Colonial Secretary with letter after letter until he succeeded in having the insane moved into it before it was ready for their reception. The drains were so improperly constructed that they did not carry off the refuse from the building, a defect which was perceived not by Dr. Davey, but by Dr. Roe, under whose personal superintendence it was remedied. Besides this, many other improvements have been made by Dr. Roe whose exertions to render the Asylum as perfect as possible have been strenuous and unremitting. Dr. Roe recommended the employment of a gardener, he superintended the laying out of a vegetable garden, and supplied seeds; he had, after much trouble, and correspondence, a neat and suitable cottage for the overseer erected on the grounds of the Asylum; he recommended the construction of huts for the attendants and their families, and of work shops for the patients, both of which judicious suggestions were successfully opposed by Dr. Davey. Dr. Roe placed himself in communication with Lieutenant-Colonel



Brown, commanding the Royal Engineers, and had the cuttings of the trees growing on the Military grounds sent to the Asylum for the purpose of making fences where they were required.

These fences have been erected not only at Dr. Roe's suggestion, but under his supervision.

In short every improvement that was made was made through the exertions of Dr. Roe; and those who know the difficulty of getting even a small sum of money from the impoverished treasury of Ceylon, will be able to estimate the amount of his exertions.

Dr. Davey's haste to occupy the Asylum caused it to be given over by the Engineer Department before it was completed in all its necessary arrangements—it was of course supposed to have been completed, and this circumstance naturally led to difficulty in obtaining money on supplementary estimates.

Dr. Davey indulges in some childish, and impertinent remarks about the occupation of the Asylum by the sick of the 95th (?) Regiment—from which he infers that the "*Garrison Physician*" as, with the utmost vulgarity, he styles Dr. Roe, desired to retain the building as a Garrison Sanatorium. None of the 95th Regiment were ever in the Asylum as Military invalids, but in May 1847, after the 95th Regiment had left Ceylon, Cholera broke out in the barracks occupied by the 37th Regiment in the Fort of Colombo. From the greater numerical strength of this corps, the barracks were crowded, and in order to admit of the

vacation, and cleansing of those barrack rooms in which the disease had been most prevalent, as well as to prevent over crowding, a Company of the 37th Regiment was sent to the Asylum, and a contiguous building was appropriated as a convalescent Hospital, with an officer of the Medical Staff in charge.

The Asylum was selected as the only available situation; and none but men of Dr. Davey's peculiar frame of mind, would have raised any objection to its being occupied for such a purpose, more especially if they remembered that at the time it was so occupied, Hendelle, where the insane were, and the Pettah, or native town, enjoyed a remarkable immunity from the scourge.

Among other imperfections in the Asylum, the construction of which Dr Davey takes to himself so much credit for having superintended, is the very serious want of convalescent wards. This is a great desideratum, for cures cannot be expected to be either numerous or perfect while the convalescent patients mingle with those whose malady is at its height.

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## CHAPTER VI.

*The diets of the Insane and the Letter of "Lassitudo."*

The diet of the insane was the cause of all the former discussion on Dr. Davey and the Asylum which took place through the medium of the Press in the year 1848. The train was fired by the *independent* or *opposition* paper, the "*Colombo Observer*" on the 15th of May 1848 in an article laudatory of Dr. Davey, from which the following is an extract:—

"The average number of deaths since Dr. Davey's arrival has *gradually*\*, and considerably diminished but we exceedingly regret to learn that owing to an injudicious diminution in the diet, an increased mortality took place towards the end of last year." \* \* \*

"We know not where the blame properly attaches, for this grievous error, nor are we anxious to enquire; as we trust the present may be sufficient to prevent the possibility of its being again committed."

"None, on the contrary, notwithstanding the great disadvantage under which Natives are treated, and—we regret to add—the undue interference of superior authority, Dr. Davey has succeeded in restoring many patients to reason and these too in an increased ratio to the admissions."

These gratuitously insolent, and unfounded assertions, reflecting as they were intended to do on the Principal Civil Medical Officer were met by the

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\* I have *italicised* the word "*gradually*" because while the Editor of the '*Observer*' was in the act of penning this article, the insane were dying at the rate 85 5.7ths per cent. per annum!

following queries which were published in the *Ceylon Times*, and which to this day REMAIN UNANSWERED :—

“What was the “*injudicious diminution*,” of diet which he (the Editor of the *Observer*) says caused an increased mortality among the insane towards the end of last year? Had it the same *fatal effects* in other Native Hospitals in which it was adopted? Why does it not *continue* a cause of mortality among the insane, and how does it happen that, in spite of it, cures are now progressing among them in the *most wonderful* manner? Has there been *any diminution of the diets at all*? What was the former, and what is the present scale? What proportion does the present scale hold with regard to the quantity and quality of the probable daily consumption of any of these *poor starved* creatures who had not the misfortune of being fed at the expense of Government? Is there a single case on record of any patient having died from *want of food* in any Government Asylum in this Island? What was the undue interference of power, which the *Observer* so pathetically bewails? Was it any thing more than a legitimate exercise of authority to *compel* Dr. Davey to obey the prescribed rules of the service, and carry on his “*modern and scientific treatment*” with more effect, by visiting his hospital more frequently than he was inclined to do?”

Before Dr. Roe’s arrival in Ceylon, the plan of dieting the Native Hospitals was that of making the Resident Medical Officer, generally a Burgher, or Native Sub-Assistant, Purveyor, and allowing him a certain sum daily for each patient in Hospital. The Sub-Assistant could not of course purchase the provisions himself in the bazaar, nor was he, I believe, expected to do so. He delegated the cook, or some other servant of the Establishment to purchase them—and those who know anything of the “*moral feelings*” of the lower classes of Asiatics,

know to their cost, that "*acquisitiveness*" is one of their prevailing "*sentiments*"—or in other and more intelligible terms, that any money passing through their hands pays a very heavy duty!

To obviate this disadvantage Dr. Roe suggested that contracts should be made by the Commissariat Department for the provisions, and these issued on Requisitions signed by the Resident Medical Officer. These Requisitions are bound up in the form of bank *cheque* books, and like them serve as vouchers for the expenditure. The advantage of this plan is obvious, as the Commissariat makes large tenders, and procures the provisions good, cheap, and in abundance. Besides this, Dr. Roe has made another most salutary arrangement in having had the scale of diets written or printed in native characters and hung up in conspicuous parts of the wards. Every patient thus knows what he is entitled to receive. This plan is adopted in all Military Hospitals, but Dr. Roe has the merit of having extended it to the Native.

So much for Dr. Roe's plan of dieting; the subjoined is the daily quantity allowed to European, and to Native patients.

FOR EUROPEAN DIETS IN THE LEPER AND LUNATIC HOSPITAL.

Articles composing the different diets for a day.

Every Bushel of Rice contains 32 quarts.

<i>Ordinary Diet.</i>	<i>Spoon Diet.</i>
12 oz. Bread.	8 oz. Bread.
12 oz. Meat.	4 oz. Sago.
1 oz. Sugar.	3 oz. Sugar.
$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Coffee.	2 oz. Rice.



<i>Ordinary Diet.</i>	<i>Spoon Diet.</i>
$\frac{1}{2}$ d. Curry Stuff.	2 Eggs.
2 oz. Rice	$\frac{1}{2}$ pint Milk.
3 lbs. dry wood for each diet.	
1 gill oil for every lamp.	

FOR NATIVE DIETS IN THE LEPER AND LUNATIC  
HOSPITAL.

<i>Ordinary Diet.</i>	<i>Spoon Diet.</i>
$\frac{1}{3}$ oz. Coffee.	4 oz Sago.
$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Sugar.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ oz Sugar.
2 Hoppers.	8 oz Bread.
$1\frac{1}{2}$ pints Rice.	2 oz. Rice.
8 oz Meat or Fish.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pint Milk.
$\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Salt.	
$\frac{1}{4}$ d for Curry Stuff.	

1d. for each diet will be allowed for fish on days when meat is not allowed.

Such are the diets allowed by Dr. Roe; and few, I think, will consider them insufficient, or at least certainly not so insufficient as to cause death according to Mr. Elliott, Editor of the *Observer*, or GENERAL DEBILITY with death as its consequence, as stated by Dr. Davey.

It must be remembered also that *extras* may be given at the discretion of the Medical Officer in charge!

I have had the daily quantity of rice used by a working cooly employed in the Medical store measured before me, and I find it falls a little short of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pint, and in quality is much inferior to that issued to the Native Hospitals. Besides this the man has, for breakfast, 2 hoppers or rice cakes, and a cup of coffee sweetened with jaggery (a very coarse sort of sugar). He has a little curry stuff



with fish, the quantity of which I could not ascertain.

His diet is *inferior* to the ordinary diet of the native insane patients in the Asylum; and yet he is not a Pauper, but receives 18s a month as wages.

Dr. Davey in the more liberal dietary which he "thought proper to suggest," when his suggestion was most courteously requested by Dr. Roe,—recommended vegetables *ad libitum*, that is *according to the will*, but whether of *himself* or *his patients* he does not say. For Friday's diets he recommends potatoes, which are not always procurable and very expensive when they are, and *pea soup*, for which, by some extraordinary oversight, he has omitted all mention of the *knuckles of ham*!!

The letter of "*Lassitudo*" to which Dr. Davey refers, and the authorship of which he attributes to me, bears forcibly on the subject now under discussion—and without owning or disowning having written it, I will reprint it in full. It was published in the *Ceylon Times* of the 9th June 1848, from which I extract it,—after many absurd, and abusive articles in relation to Dr. Davey, *the puppet, for the nonce, of the Observer*, had been published in the latter paper. It is as follows:—

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE CEYLON TIMES.

"For God's sake, Mr. Editor, let us hear no more of the 'New Asylum.' Enough has been said on that subject already, to drive the public mad. Bedlam has surely been at large!

"Every body knows that beyond the established diet, which is more than ample, it is at Dr. Davey's discretion to order any '*extras*' for his patients that he may think

necessary; fowls, eggs, butcher's meat, beer, wine, spirits, and the like; and all *reasonable men* will admit that if the insane *do die* from 'insufficient,' or improper food, under such a very liberal system, Dr. Davey, and Dr. Davey alone, is to blame.

"I have taken some pains to enquire into this matter, and *I know* that what I have just stated *is true*. It is, no doubt lamentable that with the superior advantages which I am well aware that the insane now enjoy, owing to the prudent and salutary arrangements of Dr. Roe, they are dying in larger numbers than they ever did before. It is not of course for you or me to assign a cause to this melancholy truth; but let me as a friend, remind you that those who write against you on this subject, do not hesitate to write *without a cause*; and that they write *merely for effect*!

"The entertaining and very pretty anecdote of the *Scalpel Sharpener*, which is told with so much simplicity, and good feeling by '*Secundus*' is of course calculated to add to the usefulness of the Asylum by increasing the number of applications for '*treatment*' and '*discharge*?' Believe me Sir, that your opponents are like swine in deep water, cutting their own throats as fast as they can—let them flounder on, if you please, the sooner they succeed in their *immense exertions* the better!

"You will be guided by your own good taste, and better judgment in continuing or discontinuing this controversy, but do not, *for your own sake*, inflict upon us any more such absurd productions as that of '*Don Quixote de la Mancha*.'

"Your's very truly,

"LASSITUDO."

The publication of the above letter has given Dr. Davey an opportunity of indulging in such pretty quotations and ungrammatical expressions, as these:—

"When rogues fall out &c."

P. 217.

And—

"*Lassitudo* has either a *shocking bad* memory or &c."

P. 220.

Severe and "shocking" clever as Dr. Davey's criticisms are, it still appears to me that the letter of "Lassitudo" can pass unscathed through a more trying ordeal. Dr. Davey makes constant use of the terms "truth", "equity", "higher sentiments of man" &c., but I cannot think that he understands, or appreciates their meaning, otherwise he would not have accused "Lassitudo" of *pretending in vain* to believe that these said *extras*, to which he refers, are designed for any thing else than for *particular* use (see pages 217 and 218) "Lassitudo" pretends no such thing; he draws a broad, and distinct line between the "established" diet, which he considers "ample" and the *extra diet*, which he says, truly, "it is at Dr. Davey's discretion to order" and I am not without hope that all "reasonable men" will agree with "Lassitudo", that if the insane *did die* from insufficiency of food, under such a liberal system, "Dr. Davey, and Dr. Davey alone, was to blame."

So much for the diets. Now let us turn to the rate of mortality.

I made the acquaintance of "Lassitudo", for whom I entertain a sort of fellow feeling, since he has borne the tempest of Dr. Davey's abuse along with me,—and as soon as I could take the liberty, I asked him what he meant by the word "now" in in this sentence of his letter "it is no doubt lamentable that with the superior advantages which I am well aware that they (the insane) now enjoy, owing to the prudent, and salutary arrangements of Dr. Roe, they are dying in larger numbers than they ever did before." I pointed at the same time, to page 220 of

Dr. Davey's work where the author expresses some doubt as to the precise period of time denoted by this word "now," and begs to know whether it was the "*then present*," or the month of *June*. "*Lassi udo*" laid his hand familiarly on my shoulder, and with a smile of the most withering irony said "the word "*now*" was perhaps misapplied—but it could not indicate the month of *June*, as my letter was written on the 9th of that month, and the Returns for *June* could not be closed before the 30th. Dr. Davey must have a "*shocking bad memory*" he continued, if he does not remember this FACT! Is it not remarkable that the month of *MAY* did not suggest itself to him instead of the month of *JUNE*? Go into the Medical office next door, and ask for Dr. Davey's Return of sick for *May* 1848; that was the period indicated by the word "*now*." "

I did as my friend desired me;—I obtained a copy of the Return of sick for *May*, and from it I learned that the deaths had been 5, and the number treated 70—So that *one* patient of every *fourteen* treated during the month had died, and when *Lassi udo* wrote with reference to the mortality during the month of *May* 1848, it had reached the fearful proportionate rate of 85 5 per cent *per annum*! So much for *Dr. Davey*, and the *Colombo Observer*!!!

I shall annex a copy of the Return in question, and make a few comments on the *lucid* explanation which *Dr. Davey* gives of the awful mortality during the period.



CIVIL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

MONTHLY RETURN of Sick of the Lunatic

in the Hospital at Wellicadde during the Month of May 1845.

Description.	STRENGTH.				Remained	Admitted	Total	Discharged	Died	Remain under treatment	Of these		Average daily Sick	When and where died.
	Officers.	Men	Women	Children							Relapses	Convalescents		
<b>DISEASES.</b>														
Mania.....					15	1	16	0	1	15	0	0	0	29th May, 1848 at 1 o'clock A. M.
Suicid: Mania.....					1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	26th May, 1848 at 6 o'clock A. M.
Chr. Mania.....					12	3	15	1*	1	13	0	0	0	23rd May, 1848 at 10 o'clock P. M.
Rect. do.....					1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2nd May, 1848 at 7 o'clock P. M.
Melancholia.....					1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	20th May, 1848 at 3 o'clock P. M.
Mono Mania.....					1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Epilepsia.....					1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Imbecility.....					6	2	8	0	1	7	0	0	0	
Congl. Idiocy.....					0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
					38	8	46	1	3	42	0	0	0	
<b>Women.</b>														
Mania.....					7	1	8	0	1	7	0	0	0	
Chr. Mania.....					9	3	12	0	1	11	0	0	0	
Rect. do.....					2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	
Epilepsia.....					1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Congl. Idiocy.....					1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
					20	4	24	0	2	22	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL.....</b>					58	12	70	1	5	54	0	0	0	

Names of Men, Women and Children who have died during the Month.

Description.	Names	Sex	Age	Disease.	When admitted	When and where died.
Malabar ..	Cupitchy.....	F	36	Chr. Mania...	9th July 1845...	29th May, 1848 at 1 o'clock A. M.
Cingalies..	Nouchy... ..	F	46	Mania.....	2nd June 1847...	26th May, 1848 at 6 o'clock A. M.
Malabar ..	Darmelingum	M	40	Mania.....	25th Augt. 1847...	23rd May, 1848 at 10 o'clock P. M.
Cingalies...	Juanis Appoo	M	50	Chr. Mania...	13th Nov. 1847...	2nd May, 1848 at 7 o'clock P. M.
Malabar ...	Palemaden ...	M	35	Imbecility ...	5th May, 1848...	20th May, 1848 at 3 o'clock P. M.

B. Under the term morbi oculorum are comprised.  
Do. — do. — cutis are comprised.

Signed.) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.  
Supt. of Lunatic Hospital.

\* Discharged by order of District Court.

DETAIL of Names, Diseases, &c. from

to

Number	NAMES.	Sex	Diseases	Folio of Register	Period		No. of Days	Extras		Date of admission the commencing month
					From	To				
					TOTAL .....					

N. B.—This return is to contain the names of all persons receiving Medicines and medical aid.—Letter D to be prefixed in the column of remarks to every case discharged, and Letter R to every case remaining under treatment.

## REMARKS ON THE ACCOMPANYING RETURN.

(Vide Circular Deptl. Memo. of 28th March 1843.)

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Memo.

In the past Month so many as five deaths occurred: as I have mentioned in my last Annual Report, the rainy seasons of Ceylon, which mark the setting in of the two Monsoons—about May and October—in each Year may be expected to be attended with a higher mortality than any other given period. The wet and damp, and diminished temperature necessarily aggravate those indications of an impaired vitality—which so generally exist without other marks of diseased action in the system—common to all insane—and which recognized by the term “*general Debility*” are commonly, the cause of death among Lunatics.—By referring to each of the several deaths as already reported, it will be seen that 4 of the 5 plainly died of pure and unmixed “*General Debility*” whilst the remaining one was preceded by a *Diarrhœa*—but which occurring in the course of dissolution, so to speak, must rather be regarded as a mere symptom of an exhausted or impaired vital power.

(Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.

*Supt. of Lunatic Hospital,*

ABSTRACT of Diseases during the Month of

18

Description	DISEASES OF THE													
	Fevers		Lungs		Liver		Stomach & Bowels		Brain		All other Diseases		Total	
	Admitted	Died	Admitted	Died	Admitted	Died	Admitted	Died	Admitted	Died	Admitted	Died	Admitted	
Total.....														

MONTHLY RETURN of Sick of

the

treated in the Hospital

at

the

during the month of

18

Station

(Received

1000.—Feb. 1848.

N. B.—It is particularly requested that the "Folio" of Register may be inserted.

RETURN of cases sent examined under Judicial instructions during the month of

18

NAMES.	Nature of the Injury sustained	Date of Examination	By whom sent & under what Ordinance	REMARKS.
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A reference to the remarks appended to the foregoing Return will show that Dr. Davey attributes the cause of death amongst his patients to "GENERAL DEBILITY;" and that he talks of "*pure, and unmixed general debility*" as a cause of death. I would ask him in particular, and the Medical Profession in general, what is the meaning of "*pure and unmixed general debility*" and I will be glad to receive a satisfactory answer to the question.

Men who reason sufficiently closely to attribute an effect to a cause, will at once perceive that "*general debility*" must, under all circumstances, be the result of some cause operating prejudicially on the general system,—and that it cannot be a *cause*, although it may be, and generally is a *precedent* of death. If Dr. Davey attributes the prevalence of this general debility amongst his patients, and their consequent deaths to an insufficiency of their diets; then it is evident, from what I have said before, that he has MURDERED every patient who has died from it while under his Medical charge. His remarks about the monsoon may seem very grand to those who have never been in the East—but they are as thorough rubbish as all the other remarks that he makes! Variability of temperature or atmospheric moisture produces the same results in a tropical climate as it produces elsewhere; it produces *acute* disease of the different organs; but I, and I believe the Profession, have yet to learn that it produces "*General Debility*," as a *primary result*!

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## CHAPTER VII.

*The results of Dr. Davey's Modern and Scientific treatment of the Insane in Ceylon.*

WE are informed by Dr. Davey in almost every page of his book that his labours on behalf of the "insane poor" in Ceylon were unremitting—that in spite of "dirty" opposition and "enmity" he proceeded steadfastly on his mission. At page 229 he says—

"As this Report will most likely be our last, we may be allowed to express a hope that the contents of this one, no less than those of the two preceding, may assure the Government that we have neglected nothing of very great importance —" NECESSARY TO ELUCIDATE THE MYSTERIOUS MALADIES OF THE MIND, AND PROVE BY EXPERIENCE THE MEANS USED FOR THE <sup>restraint</sup> TREATMENT OF THE LUNATIC,"—to use the words of the Principal Civil Medical Officer; contained in the Official communication wherein these several annual Reports were called for.

"We hope that whatever impulse forwards our own exertions may have effected, either directly or indirectly, such might\* not, at any future time be allowed to exhaust itself; but on the other hand, we trust that the insane may continue to receive that kind sympathy, protection, and care they so fairly claim, and which we have done

---

\* I have italicised the words "may" and "might" in order to call attention to the grammatical incorrectness of the sentence. Dr. Davey is a severe critic of the grammar and diction of others, —while every page of his book proves him guilty of the most unpardonable solecisms in both,—nor is his ENGLISH Grammar alone incorrect;—he speaks of giving nutritive enemata to maniacs who refuse their food, "per ano"!!!

Table showing Per Cent. of DEATHS of the average NUMBER of Patients treated in the Lunatic Asylum at Colombo from 1844, to 1847, inclusive.

MONTHS.	1844.						1845.						1846.						1847.						
	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged.	Deserted.	Died.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged.	Deserted.	Died.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged.	Deserted.	Died.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged.	Deserted.	Died.	
January... ..	19	„	19	„	„	„	20	„	20	„	„	1	44	5	49	2	„	1	57	3	60	1	2	1	
February... ..	19	2	21	„	„	1	19	3	22	„	„	„	46	6	52	„	2	1	56	1	57	„	1	„	
March... ..	20	„	20	„	„	„	22	„	22	„	„	1	49	3	52	„	2	3	56	3	59	1	1	1	
April... ..	20	1	21	„	„	„	21	1	22	„	„	„	47	1	48	„	„	1	56	2	58	2	3	„	
May... ..	21	„	21	„	„	1	22	2	24	2	„	1	47	„	47	„	„	1	53	„	53	„	„	„	
June... ..	20	„	20	„	„	1	21	„	21	„	„	„	46	3	49	1	2	„	53	10	63	2	„	2	
July... ..	19	„	19	„	„	„	21	35	56	1	„	1	46	5	51	„	1	„	59	4	63	3	2	„	
August... ..	19	4	23	„	„	„	54	1	55	„	„	„	50	2	52	1	„	„	58	4	62	1	3	„	
September... ..	23	„	23	„	„	2	55	1	56	1	„	1	51	6	57	„	„	„	58	3	61	„	„	1	
October... ..	21	„	21	„	„	1	54	1	55	1	„	1	57	„	57	„	„	„	60	3	63	„	2	5	
November... ..	20	„	20	„	„	1	53	1	54	5	„	1	57	2	59	„	1	„	56	3	59	2	„	2	
December... ..	19	1	20	„	„	„	48	„	48	2	„	2	58	„	58	„	„	1	55	6	61	2	„	1	
Total...	240	8	248	„	„	7	410	45	455	12	„	9	598	33	631	4	8	8	677	42	719	14	14	13	5
Average Monthly sick			21						38	„					53	„					60	„			
Proportion per cent. of discharges and deaths to number treated.			33.3						23.7	31.6					15.1	7.5					21.7	23.3			

\* This proportion of deaths in 1844, shows a diminution of about 16 per cent., if viewed in connexion with that which obtained in 1843, at Hende in which year the mortality among the insane was as high as 59 † per cent. About this time the question of the amelioration of the insane was first agitated.

The above is Dr. Davey's table which I have referred to in my introductory remarks ;—it is the statement of his *successful practice* upon which he has been lauded, and extolled by the *Colombo Observer*, but it is one mass of error,—and displays such a degree of ignorance as would brand a school boy of seven years of age as a hopeless dunce ! By what rule of arithmetic does he make the percentage of deaths for 1844 appear as 33.3 while the number treated during the year is stated as 248, and the number of deaths as 7. How does he make the number treated during that year 248 when there remained on the 1st of January, by his own account, 19—and were admitted during the year 8 ? The addition of 8 to 19 gives a total of 27, not of 248 !! or how does he find a percentage of mortality so high as 59 + in 1843—during which year the mortality among the insane and epileptic was only 4.8 per cent, as shewn by the following table which I have compiled from the Monthly Returns, for that year ? Further comments upon this table would be superfluous. It proves either that Dr. Davey has been guilty of wilful deceit, or that, during his whole service in Ceylon he has not known what he was about. It renders any statistical information given by him utterly useless.

*Table showing the Number of Lunatic, and Epileptic Patients treated at Hendelle during the year 1843, with the Monthly, and Yearly percentage of Mortality amongst them.*

Months	Total Treated.	Died.	Percentage of mortality.
January.....	22	"	"
February.....	21	1	4.7
March.....	20	"	"
April.....	20	"	"
May.....	19	1	5.3
June.....	18	1	5.3
July.....	18	"	"
August..	19	2	10.5
September.....	19	"	"
October.....	18	2	11.1
November.....	18	1	5.3
December.....	16	3	18.7
Total....	228	11	4.8

I was struck by the large number of patients said to have been treated during the year 1847, which amounted, according to Dr. Davey, to 719,—and I requested Mr. Ebert to go over the Monthly Returns from 1844 to 1849 inclusive of the numbers treated, &c. in a tabular form. The following is the result. I have examined the table with the Returns from which it has been compiled, and if they are correct, it is correct also, although it is contradictory of Dr. Davey's representations.



TABLE Shewing the Average percentage of Discharges and Deaths amongst the INSANE and EPILEPTIC Patients treated in the Lunatic Asylum at Colombo, from 1844 to 1849, inclusive. compiled from the Monthly Returns of Sick, by Mr. P. J. EBERT, Medical Clerk.

MONTHS.	1844.							1845.							1846.							1847.							1848.							1849.																																									
	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged as cured.	Removed.	Deserted.	Died.	Remaining.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged as cured.	Removed.	Deserted.	Died.	Remaining.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged as cured.	Removed.	Deserted.	Died.	Remaining.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged as cured.	Removed.	Deserted.	Died.	Remaining.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged as cured.	Removed.	Deserted.	Died.	Remaining.																																					
January.....	13	"	"	"	"	"	"	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	44	5	"	d2	"	"	1	"	57	3	"	1	"	2	1	"	58	3	"	1	"	1	2	"	55	5	"	1	"	"	"	"																													
February.....	"	2	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	6	"	"	"	2	1	"	"	"	1	"	2	1	"	"	6	"	2	"	2	"	3	"	"	3	"	"	"	"																															
March.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	3	"	"	"	2	e3	"	"	"	3	"	1	f1	"	"	5	"	1	"	2	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"																															
April.....	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	2	"	2	"	"	"	12	"	"	1	"	5	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"																															
May.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	2	"	1	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	2	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"																																
June.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	"	1	"	2	"	"	"	10	"	"	"	2	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	2	"	1	"	"	"	"	"																																
July.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	36	"	"	"	1	1	"	"	"	5	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	4	"	"	3	2	"	"	3	"	1	"	"	4	"	"	6	"	"	1	"	1																														
August.....	"	3	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	4	"	"	3	"	"	"	3	"	1	"	2	"	2	"	"	"	"	"	"																															
September.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	"	"	"	a1	"	"	1	"	"	"	6	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	"	"	"	"	"	5	"	h2	1	"	2	"	2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"																														
October.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	3	"	"	2	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	1	"	1	"	3	"	"	"	"	"																														
November.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	3	"	"	2	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	"	5	"	"	"	"	"	"	"																															
December.....	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	b4	"	1	"	"	"	"	2	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	6	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"																															
Total	13	7	20	"	"	"	5	15	15	49	64	6	1	4	9	44	44	33	77	3	1	8	8	57	57	42	99	7	5	16	13	58	58	41	99	8	10	5	21	55	55	27	82	9	5	1	5	62																													
Yearly Proportion per cent. of Discharges and deaths to number treated.	" 25.							9.4							14							3.9							10.4							7.							13.1							8.1							21.2							11.							6.1						

a Re-admitted in February 1848.  
 b { 1 Do. in 1st January 1846.  
 1 Do. in 3rd August 1847.  
 1 Do. in 2d February 1846.  
 c 1 Case drowned while bathing.  
 d 1 Case re-admitted in January 1847.  
 e 1 Case of Suicide by hanging.  
 f From injuries inflicted by another.  
 g 1 Re-admitted in May 1848.  
 h Re-admitted in July 1848.  
 i 2 Cases of Suicide by Hanging.

RECAPITULATION.

Remained 1st January, 1844.....	13
Admitted from 1st January 1844, to 31st December 1849.....	199
<b>Total Treated.....</b>	<b>212</b>
Discharged, Cured during the above period.....	33
Deserted ditto. ditto. ....	34
Removed by order of Courts ditto. ....	22
Died ... .. ditto. ....	61
<b>Remaining 31st December 1849.....</b>	<b>62</b>
Proportion per Cent. of Deaths, to Number treated for six years...	28.8
Proportion per Cent. of Patients who have been "discharged cured" and readmitted during the above period.....	24.5



The above table, as well as that published by Dr. Davey *without acknowledgment*, was drawn up by Mr. Ebert, Medical Clerk, a man universally respected and esteemed, and one against whom slander or detraction has never been uttered except by men like Dr. Davey!—a man of honest integrity, who can despise Dr. Davey, and disregard his malice. A question may arise as to how Mr. Ebert framed a table so incorrect as I have shewn that published by Dr. Davey to be, but the answer to such a question is simple. Dr. Davey's exaggerated ideas of his own talent, and ability caused him to *instruct* Mr. Ebert, and give directions as to how the different calculations were to be made; they were made *as he directed* and the consequence was that they were all wrong! Any attempt on the part of Dr. Davey, or his friends to attribute ignorance to Mr. Ebert would be worse than useless, as he has drawn up the Military and Civil Medical Returns of the Colony for upwards of forty years; returns much more complicated than the one in question, but *always correct!*

It would appear that Mr. Ebert was as essentially necessary to Dr. Davey's fame as an *Author*, as he is said by that gentleman to be to the Principal Medical Officer. There can be no doubt that an experienced clerk is of much utility in any public office, and if to his experience of detail he adds affability, gentleness of manner, and an unvarying desire to oblige, and please as Mr. Ebert undoubtedly does, he is a still more valuable acquisition. This is no idle panegyric. All who know Mr. Ebert will know that I do not flatter him.

Davey it was 6.1. During this year also the number of deaths was less by nearly one half than that of the cures—while during the whole of Dr. Davey's service the number of *deaths exceeded that of the cures!* I may here call attention to the fact that a great many of Dr. Davey's so called "cures" were not permanent—the proportion of patients discharged as cured, and readmitted from the 1st January 1845 to the 31st December 1849 inclusive was as high as 24 2 per cent.!!

*Ans. 5th*—Same as the first and second, the question having been *twice repeated.*

*Ans. 6th*—It is a pity that Dr. Davey should have answered his own question, because he is *wrong again.* I do "*dare*" to refuse him any credit whatever, and that too "in the face of the many documents contained in" his "LITTLE BOOK." I have proved his documentary evidence to be *false*—and it follows that all his statistical information is *worthless.* His ignorance is only surpassed by his presumption, and I wish that I could attribute all his errors to ignorance only.

Such is the true history of Dr. Davey's boasted success in Ceylon. The Secretary of State may judge whether or not he selected in HIM "*a person qualified by habit and EDUCATION to undertake the management of a lunatic asylum*" (page 52)

Dr. Davey alludes to his clinical, or bed side register of cases for 1845 as a proof of his success; such a record kept by a man so talented as he calls himself, should be very valuable; but alas, like all

his other works, it is useless; it may amuse, but it cannot instruct. I will extract a case from it which is a fair sample of all.

From Folio

Folio 53.

J. A. DESYLVA AGED 34

CORPS

ADMITTED 22ND FEBRUARY, 1845.

Date.	<i>Melancholia. Disease.—with detailed Symptoms.</i>	Date	Treatment	<i>Extra Allowances.</i>
1845.	Melancholia.	1845.		
April 5th...	Tongue yellowish and furred—bowels disposed to become confined, appetite impaired—complains of no pain.	April... ..	Mercurial and other aperients. Meat diet, and when the tongue has been clean, Wine. Dy. A blister to the nape of the Neck. He requires cheerful occupation and amusement.	Wine and Meat
May.....	The state of this man since last report has been variable. He has once or twice for a few days appeared so much better that I began to think he would have made a rapid and complete recovery. He is <i>now</i> very much better than he has been and much less gloomy and cheerless.	May... ..	The same plan of general treatment has been pursued as above. The Blue Pill has been given nightly, the tongue became cleaner under its use—it affected the gums slightly after 4 doses.	Wine oz. ij daily
June 6th...	Remains in much the same unsteady state of health.	June.....	Cont the Wine and occasional aperient Medicines. P Jalapae Co dr: j.	Do.
,, 13th...	Improving.	July.....	Do.	* Wine (?)
July.....	Continues much the same.	August.....	* Wine. (?)	
August.....	Do.	Sept. 17th	R: Vin: Sherry oz. iv Dy. Pulv: Jal: Cal: drss. Emp. Canth:*	Wine oz. iv Dy
Sept. 17th	Has become worse of late, all the symptoms of Melancholia aggravated.		Continue treatment	VinSherry oz. iij
,, 26th	Is a little better.			
October ...	Has continued to improve since last report.	October ...	Do.	Do.
Nov. 14th	Do. discharged on trial.			

NOTE.—The mark \* indicates such Parts of the MS. as are quite illegible from the carelessness with which the entries have been made.  
J. M. G.



J. A. DE SYLVA AGED 34

CORPS

RE-ADMITTED JANUARY 21st, 1846.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Melancholia. Disease.—with detailed Symptoms.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Extra Allowances.</i>
1846.	The symptoms have returned and his conduct has become so troublesome that it became necessary to re-admit him.	18		
March... ..	No change whatever in this person—is desirous of quitting the Hospital.			
April ... ..	Idem.			
„ 28th	No appetite. Bowels confined.		Haust Purgans p-r-n	
May 1st...	General health and appetite good. Bowels regular.			
July... ..	Idem.			
September	Idem.			
November	No change in this person.			
1847.				
January ...	Is more composed since he has been employed in making Lasts (he is a shoemaker by trade.)			
July... ..	Idem.			
March 28th	No change, he has sold the tools given to him. Drunk, he was intoxicated the last 2 days.			
May... ..	Made several attempts to escape.			
June.....	Considerably improved in his health— No change whatever in this person— health good.			
August.....	As last reported,			
November	Do.			
1848.				
March... ..	Do.			
1849.	Do.			

NOTE.—The further record of this case is unattainable as it has not been carried on to another Folio, as it ought to have been.  
J. M. G.

The above case requires no comment.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*The case of Mr. McE———n revised.*

THIS patient was admitted into the Pauper Hospital on the 25th August 1848, and remained there under treatment for delirium tremens—until the 12th of September, when he was transferred to the Lunatic Asylum. During this time he was treated by Medical Assistant Dr. Willisford, and Medical Sub-Assistant Mr. Dickman, not by Dr. Roe, as put forward without the semblance of truth or justice by Dr. Davey, in the following foot note to page 180:—

“The gentleman mentioned, in the text was kept at the Pauper Hospital by Dr. Roe’s desire, and under *his* treatment, for almost three weeks, during the greater part of which time he was in restraint; he was then sent to the Lunatic Hospital.”

I have read Mr. McE———’s case in the Register of the Pauper Hospital, and throughout the whole record, I only find it *once* stated that Dr. Roe offered any suggestion regarding it. This occurred on the 28th of April, for which day the Report is as follows:—

“This morning was visited by Dr. Roe who ordered his eyes to be blind-folded with the hands of an assistant.” The words “*with the hands of an assistant*” are interlined, and in a different hand-writing to that of the body of the Report—they are contradicted in the report made at noon of the



same day, which is the following—"Resisted altogether *the application of a BANDAGE.*"

Dr. Roe's suggestion was that a piece of rag folded, and wet with cold water should be kept over the fore-head, and eyes, and that an attendant should remain at hand to replace it gently, and quietly when it might be displaced by the restlessness of the patient. Dr. Roe DID NOT treat the case.

After this patient's removal to the Lunatic Hospital, it appears that one evening, while at supper, he swallowed, or was supposed to have swallowed a bone, and was attacked by difficulty of deglutition;—that Dr. Davey attempted, but without success, to push the impacted substance down the gullet; that the difficulty of swallowing continued, and became more severe,—when Medical Sub-Assistant Mr. Ebert, *at the patient's own request*, had him gagged, and secured, and pushed down the foreign body with some difficulty—and that after the operation, there was no return of the distressing symptoms.

Dr. Davey having attempted to pass the probang, and having failed, *suddenly* discovered that the case was one of "*spasmodic dysphagia.*" If it were,—he did wrong in using the probang at all; but that he treated the case *surgically* is evident from what he tells us—his Tartar Emetic, Chloroform &c. were given, he says, with the view of reducing muscular strength, and enabling him to pass the probang. That the case was one of mechanical obstruction is, I think, proved by the fact that the difficulty of swallowing was instantly

removed, and did not return after the probang was passed by Mr. Ebert—the relief felt by the patient having been so great that he threw his arms round Mr. Ebert's neck, and thanked him for having saved his life!

I here append Mr. Ebert's statement of this case, with which he furnished me at my written request, a circumstance which will account for its being in the form of a letter.

“LUNATIC ASYLUM, BORELLA,

“9th April, 1850.

“SIR.—In answer to your letter of yesterday's date I beg to state the following. Whilst Mr. R. McE—— was taking his supper on Sunday evening the 21st January 1849, a bone, or some other substance, stuck in his throat; when this was told me, that very evening, I found him labouring under great difficulty of deglutition. He told me that this was caused by his swallowing a bone. I tried to make him swallow some dry bread and plantains, but that was of no avail; and as the man was still suffering much I sent a note to Dr. Davey, stating the circumstance, and requesting him to bring a Probang with him. Before his arrival, finding the man's sufferings increased, I constructed a Probang myself, and about eight in the night, while I was about to introduce it, Dr. Davey arrived; and attempted to introduce it—asking the patient to open his mouth. The patient of course refused to do so; and Dr. Davey went away, promising to be here the next day. He came next day (Monday) between 9 and 10 o'clock with Chloroform; and a pair of *Bullet* forceps,—he applied the Chloroform, but did not succeed,—he then attempted to introduce the Probang—but the man resisted. He then left me, promising to call in the evening.

“At 2 o'clock, finding the man getting worse I put a straight Waistcoat upon him (with his own consent) and having, with the assistance of the servants, tied him, with sheets to a chair, to avoid any interruption from his struggles, I put a perforated Wooden Gag which I had had constructed according to my own directions, into his mouth. I introduced the Probang which I had lengthened and made stronger; and

with great difficulty forced down the impacted substance. After the gag and straight waistcoat were removed, the patient threw his arms round my neck—and exclaimed “*you have saved my life, and I’ll be d——d if I swallow another bone!*”

“This was all on *Monday*—and the facts will be supported by all the servants here, including the Overseer, and some of the patients.

“The statements of Dr. Davey in reference to this case are all false. I never requested him to make a false entry. The entry was made in the Day Book subsequent to Dr. Roe’s letters (dated 25th and 29th January 1849), and he was consequently obliged as you may see to stitch two additional sheets of paper into the Book in order to make the entries appear consecutive,\* Dr. Davey however always treated me as if he had the greatest trust and confidence on me—as his private letters to me, which I herewith enclose, will prove,—you may judge of the extent of confidence he reposed on me, from the fact that I have still with me some printed forms unused, which he signed and left with me from time to time, to be used for Official purposes whenever required.

“The latter charge against me, that of uttering a falsehood to Dr. Roe, is unfounded; and I shall, if necessary, have what I stated to him about Mr. McE——’s case supported.

“I will feel obliged by your making this letter public, as I am anxious to give the most open contradiction to the unfounded accusations which Dr. Davey has made against me.

“I have the honor to be, Sir,

“Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed). “J. W. EBERT,

“*Medical Sub-Assistant, 1st Class.*”

“DR. J. M. GRANT,

“*Staff Assistant Surgeon,*

“*Colombo.*”

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\* A fact! I have seen the Day Book and can vouch for the accuracy of the statement that two additional sheets have been stitched in.—J. M. G.

With reference to the conclusion of Ebert's letter I wrote as follows to Medical Assistant Mr. Charsley, and received the following answer.

I will also append some letters of Dr. Davey's and others to Mr. Ebert and his Father, which shew that the former did enjoy the confidence of his patients, and that if he did not possess that of Dr. Davey, he was trusted to a most reprehensible degree by his superior.

“ FORT, 25th April.

“ MY DEAR CHARLESLEY,—Will you do me the favor of letting me know what your opinion is of the manner in which Medical Sub-Assistant Mr. J. W. Ebert has performed his duty while serving under you at the Lunatic Asylum. And also whether he is attentive to the patients, and seems to enjoy their confidence or otherwise. I make this request at Mr. Ebert's desire—he is of course anxious to obtain as many testimonials as possible, but I need not say, that I feel assured that this circumstance will not in any way bias your opinion.

“ Your's very truly,  
(Signed) “ J. M. GRANT.”

“ W. P. CHARLESLEY, Esq.

“ *Medical Assistant, —Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Colombo.*”

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“ COLOMBO, April 26th, 1850.

“ MY DEAR GRANT,—I have much pleasure in replying to your letter of yesterday's date.

“ I have only known Mr. Ebert for a period of about 6 weeks, but during that time he has been constantly under my observation, my habit being to visit the Asylum twice daily at irregular hours.

“ I have always found him at his post, steady and attentive to his duties, which he performs quite to my satisfaction.

“ I observe him constantly mixing among the patients with all of whom he is intimately acquainted, and they with him, and in little moments of irritation and ex-



citement he soothes them with calmness, and a judgment which show his knowledge of their character and habits.

"I can only regret, that my testimony of his good conduct extends over so short a period.

"Yours very truly,

(Signed) "W. P. CHARSLEY."

"J. M. GRANT, Esq. M. D.

"*Staff Assistant Surgeon.*"

---

"*Thursday.*

"MY DEAR EBERT,—I send you a few lines by Mr. Rebert's son, to make enquiry after yourself your good Lady, and the dear little children, all of whom I hope continue well. I am happy to tell you that a passage has been secured for me in the Ship *Mangalore*, which I understand sails for England about the 20th instant,—I hope before then to see you frequently.

"Assuring you of my high esteem and regard, and with my kind love to the children.

"Believe me,

"In haste your's sincerely,

(Signed) "J. R. MCE—N"

"MR. J. W. EBERT,

"*Medical Sub-Assistant, Lunatic Asylum.*"

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"MY DEAR EBERT,—With reference to your note of this day's date requesting me to state whether I had ever heard Mr. MCE—N state the circumstances which followed his having had a bone stick in his throat after taking his supper when in the Lunatic Asylum.

"I have much pleasure in stating that I have frequently heard him allude to the circumstance, and at the same time observe that it was owing to your energetic measures that the bone was dislodged, and that his life was saved thereby. I have heard him make this statement both in the asylum and at your own table in presence of many others.

"Your's very sincerely,

(Signed) "W. A. HALLILEY."

"28-3-50:

"J. W. EBERT, Esq."



"MY DEAR MR. EBERT,—With regard to your enquiry, I have no hesitation in saying that McE—n did once in my presence state (after an allusion from yourself to the circumstance) that a bone stuck in his throat, and that you were instrumental in saving his life on that occasion.

"Your's very sincerely,  
(Signed) "JAMES LOOS."

"March 28, 1850.  
"Wellicadde."

---

"December 31st, 1845.

"MY DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly send per bearer the November expenditure to copy? I will return it to-morrow or next day, with the returns for *December*.

"I have received a letter from the Colonial Secretary which asks me if I am prepared to recommend any one as a successor to Mr. Dickenson. Had I better mention your son in my reply?"

"Your's very truly,  
"J. G. DAVEY,"

"P. J. EBERT, Esq.

"P. S.—I very stupidly ante-dated my letter of yesterday, concerning the Patient found in the water. I put the 29th instead 30th will you *note this?*"\*

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"MY DEAR SIR,—Will you be so good as to draw out the form I use for the discharge of recovered patients by to-morrow—as many as you believe I shall want—there are I think, you told me *two* males and *one* female to be discharged, or rather to be reported as '*cured*.'

"Your's truly,  
(Signed) "J. G. DAVEY."

"Saturday.  
"MR. EBERT."

---

"Saturday.

"MY DEAR SIR.—Will you, kindly send by the bearer, *if it be possible*, the letter of Dr. St. John to me about

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\* The above letter was addressed to Mr. Ebert, Senior, Medical Clerk.

visiting Hendelle daily at 7 A. M. I have neither the original nor the *copy*. Do what you can.

"Your's truly,  
(Signed) "J. G. DAVEY."

"MR. EBERT,

"*Lunatic Hospital, Borella.*"

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"DEAR SIR.—Have the goodness to let the MS. of the *Half Yearly Report* which accompanies this—be re-corrected—that is let a fair and proper copy of the same be made, *without delay* to be forwarded to the Principal Civil Medical Officer. The information required to fill up the table! about the rain and the thunder and lightning you can obtain at the Jail *or elsewhere*—however let it be directly attended to and got ready for my signature.

"Your's very truly,  
(Signed) "J. G. DAVEY."

"May 4, 1848, *Thursday.*

"MR. EBERT."

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"CINNAMON GARDENS, *July 4th, 1848.*

"MY DEAR MR. EBERT.—I hope this will find you well, and that your fever has entirely left you now. I hope that Mrs. Ebert also is in the enjoyment of her best health, and little Miss Cicilia and the other little ones.

"Mamma desires me to present her best compliments to Mrs. Ebert and yourself and pray present the same from me also, and accept the same from your's very faithfully,

(Signed) "ALEX. J. N——O."\*

"DR. — EBERT,

"*Lunatic Asylum, Borella.*"

It, now only remains for me to notice, in connexion with this case, the extraordinary statements made by Dr. Davey in a foot note to page 254, from which I extract the following:—

"I decline to tax the patience of my readers by any explanation of the querulous complaints, made, both

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\* The above is a copy of a letter addressed to Medical Sub-Assistant Mr. Ebert by a person who had been an inmate of the Hospital.

orally and by letters, by Dr Roe, because his assistance was not sought in a case of so much "emergency" and "danger," and because I borrowed a pair of forceps from a brother practitioner, which were never used, and did not apply at the *Government Medical Store* for the instrument, whereat, in spite of the professions made, many highly useful and even indispensable medicines, instruments &c., cannot be had, or my private drug bill would not contain the various items it does, including *Acet Cantharid*, *Binioidid Hydrarg*, *Chloroform*, *Truss &c.*, articles purchased by me for the Government Service."

The meaning to be attached to the above quotation is obviously this, *viz.* that Dr. Davey *had to purchase* Medicine for the use of the Public Service which he could not obtain from the Military Medical Stores;—now, being in charge of these stores, I am in a position to contradict this extraordinary statement in the most positive manner,—I have referred to *every* Requisition and receipt for Medicines and Materials that he has ever rendered to the Military Medical Stores, it was the work of about *five minutes to do so*, and I can positively assert that he NEVER has asked either for *biniodide of mercury*, or for *chloroform*. I prepared chloroform for Government use, at the Medical Stores, and issued it to the Public Hospitals, both Military and Civil, on Requisitions approved by the Principal Medical Officer, some time before any of that drug had been *imported for sale*. Does Dr. Davey suppose that the Civil Medical Service which HE is so anxious to emancipate from the *thralldom* of MILITARY SUPERVISION, is not conducted upon the most systematic rules? Is he foolish, or ignorant enough to suppose that in *one hour*; I could not

tell him the quantity of each drug he “*required*” and the quantity of each that he *received* from the Government Medical Stores, during the *whole period of his four years service in Ceylon?* He seems to be unaware that such matters are not left to “*shocking bad*” memories like those of *Lassitudo*, and that every thing official regarding him is upon official record; but of this *fact* I will soon convince him, if he is capable of being convinced at all.

On the 2nd November 1848, he wrote the following letter, of which he requested Medical Sub-Assistant Mr. Ebert to make a fair copy, and direct it to the Principal Medical Officer:—

“BORELLA, 2nd November, 1848.

“SIR.—I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to allow Four ounces of the Acet: Cantharid: to be furnished to the Lunatic Hospital. I am anxious to blister a lunatic patient therein confined, and can do so only by a fluid application, because the exceeding restlessness and excitement of the person alluded to would prompt him to remove *an ordinary blister*.

“I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) “J. G. DAVEY, M. D.,

“*Superintendent Lunatic Hospital.*”

“S. C. ROE, Fsq., M. D.,

“*Principal Civil Medical Officer,*

“*&c. &c. &c.*”

A copy of this letter, with Dr. Roe’s name attached as an approval of the issue, I have, among my other official documents, as a *voucher* for my expenditure of the public stores for the service specified.

Again I find, dated the 23rd of February 1849, the following *Requisition* and *Receipt* from Dr. Davey :—

*Requisition for a steel Truss for the use of the Lunatic Hospital at Wellicadde.*

Colombo, 23rd February, 1849.

Description	Number Required	Dimension in inches.	For whom Required.	Remarks
Right Side	One	28	Mootto.	

(Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.  
*Superintendent of Lunatic Hospital.*

Approved.

(Signed) S. C. ROE, M. D.,  
*Deputy Inspector General of Hospital and  
Principal Medical Officer.*

Received from the officer in charge of Medical stores the above mentioned Truss, for the service specified.

(Signed) J. G. DAVEY, M. D.  
*Superintendent of Lunatic Hospital.*

True copy.

(Signed) J. M. GRANT, M. D.  
*Staff Assistant Surgeon in charge of Medical Stores.*

It thus appears that of the *four* articles enumerated by Dr. Davey as *not to be procured* from the Government Medical Stores, *two were never applied for* by him, and that the two for which he did apply, *he received!* What credit can any human being give to his assertions after this *expose?* These official documents are not secret,—they are open to



the inspection of any one who, in these days of forgery, may fancy that I have forged them!

To make assurance doubly sure, I have asked Messrs. Clarke, Romer, and Co., the Chemists and Druggists by whom his *private* prescriptions were usually compounded, whether he had ever obtained from them Acet : Cantharid : Biniodid : Hydraag : Chloroform,—or a truss,—and the following is the answer which I received from Mr. Parker, one of the Partners of that firm :—

“ COLOMBO, 7th May, 1850.

“ DEAR SIR.—The only article in your list that Dr. Davey had from us was a little Chloroform, for which he paid Cash.

“ Your's truly,  
(Signed) “ W. PARKER.”

“ DR. GRANT.”

(*True Copy*)  
(Signed) J. M. GRANT, M. D.

The above note does not rescue Dr. Davey from the dilemma in which he has *voluntarily* placed himself, because it does not show whether the Chloroform was purchased for a *public*, or a *private* patient ;—and because, supposing that it was purchased for the former, he had never applied for it to the Government Medical Stores.

I much fear that the *worthy*, the *talented*, the *highly accomplished* DR. DAVEY has pandered to the *lower* “ *sentiments of man*” in regard to his *self asserted* liberality towards the Government of Ceylon !

I require Dr. Davey to *prove his own*, or to *disprove my statements*. To use his own quotation,

“ *Res non verba quæso.*”

## CONCLUSION.

BEFORE concluding these short notes I must contradict two statements of Dr. Davey's as extraordinary, and as easy of refutation as those which I have contradicted already. These documents in the Medical Office are *sad* "bores;" *they*, and NOT *Dr. Roe*, are the "*certain authority*" on which I told him that I wrote in 1848!

At pages 110 and 111, Dr. Davey writes:—

"In connexion with the discharge of lunatic patients, it has on two or three occasions occurred that on the party leaving the institution he has been without the means of procuring even the commonest food or raiment.\* Such a condition is, of course, at all times extremely distressing, even here, WHERE THE WANTS OF THE NATIVE ARE FEW, AND GENERALLY SO VERY EASILY GRATIFIED;† but how much more is it where the sufferer has so recently recovered the use of his men-

At page 166, THE SAME AUTHORITY writes:—

"Before concluding these our remarks, we would acknowledge the kind co-operation of the Principal Civil Medical Officer Dr. Roe, in *granting* the allowance we *had the honor to recommend* to discharged patients on leaving the Hospital, and recommending their intercourse with the world; that such an arrangement has contributed materially to the well-being of the individuals for whose benefit it was intended, there is every reason to believe; the re-

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\* Whose fault was that? Why Dr Davey's! (*Vide ord. No. 2, 1840—Sect No 5*)

† Then why cram him with extras, and, of all other extras, with WINE? (!)

tal powers, and is thereby prepared to renew his acquaintance with the world and its uncertainties?

“To meet this difficulty we would suggest *that it may be allowed us some discretionary relief*;\* a mere trifle would be sufficient, even if it allowed only of the purchase of a few measures of rice. At Hanwell there is established the “ADELAIDE FUND,” the object of which is the relief, and assistance of discharged patients.”

From the above it would appear that Dr. Davey was *vain glorious enough* to believe that the provision granted to lunatic patients, on their discharge from the asylum, *by virtue of an ordinance of 1840*, had been afforded at HIS suggestion,—although the ordinance in question had been promulgated *at least THREE YEARS* before his arrival in the Colony!

It says little for him, *with all his boasted ZEAL*, and professed *sympathy* for the “INSANE POOR,” whose condition the sole object of his “*mission*,”

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\* God forbid! Without *discretion*, there should be no *discretionary* power!!

† “I have here fallen into an error: the relief of discharged patients is provided for in the Colonial ordinance relating to insane persons—(*Vide ordinance No. 2—1840—Sect. 5.*)”

[Foot note to page 166.]

‡ The *italics*, and *capitals* are OUR OWN.

he tells us, was to "*ameliorate*," that he should have been ignorant of the existence of such a salutary ordinance, even up to the date of his second Report to the Principal Civil Medical Officer, "*presented January 1848*."—an ordinance which had been in existence, and operation for SEVEN YEARS *before his second Report was rendered!!!*

It may seem remarkable that he should have acknowledged the 'KIND CO-OPERATION' of Dr. Roe, only on the subject of this provision for discharged lunatic patients.—a point upon which he neither *required*, nor *received* it;—but it is easy to see through his motive. He would fain have had it believed that the provision had been recommended by Dr. Roe and made at HIS SUGGESTION!

*"Where ignorance is bliss, 't is folly to be wise."*

Should Dr. Davy doubt the truth conveyed in the above quotation, and call for a second edition of these short notes, I will give him a second, and enlarged edition;—but I think he will agree with me that it is better not to stir up muddy water, or "*drag*" even the most contemptible creature "*FROM OBSCURITY*," without due deliberation.

Forming an opinion of his feelings from his writings, I would say that his notions of "*co-operating*" with SUPERIORS might be thus expressed:—

WE, JAMES GEORGE DAVEY, M. D., *do hereby declare OURSELVES to be at all times ready, and willing to co operate with any SUPERIOR, Military, or Unmilitary, who will defer entirely to OUR opinions, acknowledge his own in-*

capacity, both "MORAL," and "INTELLECTUAL," to "direct my movements, or control my acts;" (page 18,) and who will not presume to form, or express any opinion of his own.

WE would have it distinctly understood that WE will co-operate with no man who is not possessed of the very greatest modesty; that being a sentiment to which WE OURSELVES are perfect strangers, but which WE much admire in others.

The following extract from a foot note to page 218 should have been noticed under the head of *Diets*. I have there omitted to notice it,—but the statement it conveys is so bold that it might gain belief from its *very assurance*, if it were allowed to remain uncontradicted.

"Apropos. *Lassitudo* does not probably remember that the Principal Civil Medical Officer in 1845 desired me *not* to prescribe extras for "mad people." "What could they want with wine?" This fact is reported to the Colonial Secretary."

Dr. St. John who was then Principal Medical Officer NEVER DID give any such order. The occasion to which Dr. Davey alludes is one on which Dr. St. John and he, accompanied, *most fortunately*, by Mr. Ebert, Junior, 2nd Clerk in the Medical Office, were crossing the river on their return from the Hospital at Hendelle, on which occasion Dr. St. John commented on the quantity, and *nature* of the extras ordered, and requested Dr. Davey to use extras as moderately as possible, and to substitute arrack, more or less diluted, for wine, as being a less expensive stimulant, and one to which his patients were more accustomed, in all cases



where he could do so without disadvantage to them. Such is the statement made to me by Mr. Ebert, and it appears much more probable than that of Dr. Davey. I believe that if the "fact," has been otherwise reported to the Colonial Secretary, he has been misled; and I believe further that Dr. Davey has *wilfully misrepresented* the case to the Colonial Secretary, because an extra dietary has *always* been sanctioned for the Lunatic, and every other Hospital, and because, after this *reported prohibition*, he *continued to order* extras for his patients; and Dr. St. John continued to APPROVE OF THEIR EXPENDITURE, as the following table of certain extras ordered, and issued by him during the year 1845, will prove.

*Table of certain Articles of Extra Diet ordered by Dr. Davey for the use of the Lunatic, and Leper Hospital during the year 1845, and sanctioned by ~~the~~ Dr. St. John, Principal Civil Medical Officer.*

Months.	Wine.		Porter.		Fowls.	Meat.	Bread.	as re- commended by Dr. St. John.
	botts.	oz.	botts.	oz.	No.	lb.	oz.	
January...	7	"	"	"	4	"	"	"
February.	14 $\frac{3}{4}$	"	"	"	37 $\frac{1}{3}$	"	"	"
March.....	29	"	"	"	82	"	"	"
April... ..	9	10	"	"	12	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	"
May ... ..	10	3	"	"	"	"	"	"
June.....	9	1	"	"	"	"	"	"
July... ..	8	17	"	"	"	"	"	"
August....	14	13	"	"	"	"	"	"
September	12	1	3 $\frac{1}{3}$	"	"	"	"	"
October....	10 $\frac{1}{6}$	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
November	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
December	6	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

From the above table, which is compiled from Dr. Davey's own Returns, it would seem that Wine flowed freely among the "MAD PEOPLE" in 1845, notwithstanding the reported prohibition of its use. Government, who paid for it, may ask why it was so liberally dispensed, and why arrack was not given instead?

The first of these questions Dr. Davey can best answer;—the second I will answer for him. Arrack was recommended by Dr. St. John, Principal Civil Medical Officer, and it would have been contrary to Dr. Davey's *fine, open,\* (?) manly, and independent* SYSTEM OF OPPOSITION to have issued a single drop of it!

Who was to control HIS ACTS? (!!)

I may here be allowed to say that these notes have not been written from any premeditated and cherished hostility, or from any "*spiteful feeling*" entertained by me against Dr. Davey;—that I had access to the same official documents, and the same official information in 1848 as I have in 1850—that I had the same facility of *exposing* him then, as I have now;—that *even now* I have not brought *all* the

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\* I have placed a point of interrogation after the word "*open*", because I suspect that Dr. St. John is to this day unconscious that any report was made to the Colonial Secretary, to the effect that he had forbidden the use of extras for "MAD PEOPLE;" just as I was unaware, until I enquired officially, that my letter published in the *Times* had been submitted to the Governor, and that Dr. Davey had had the *cowardly meanness* not to submit, at the same time, a copy of *his own* published letter, to which mine was only a *solicited reply*!

documents at my disposal to bear against him; —that I did not use the means within my reach by which I could have injured him in 1848 because, at that time, the attack which he made upon the Medical Department of the Island, and myself, was, PROBABLY FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, *indirect*; but that I warned him *even then* that I was in possession of the means of punishing him.

Having been "*dragged from obscurity*" with *reluctance* (?) by Dr. Davey, I invite him to meet me in the open face of day. If he can prove me a LIAR, I will SKULK AWAY, *as he has done already*, and regret, *as I think he will sooner or later do*, that I should ever have appeared before the public at all!!

Throughout the preceding pages I have endeavoured to keep in view the main object of their having been written, *viz.* the vindication of the service, as well as of myself, from the most unjust, and unwarrantable aspersions,—the most flagrantly false, and untenable accusations which Dr. Davey has deemed it expedient to cast publicly upon both.

Dr. Davey met with nothing but civility and kindness, *both publicly and privately*, from the Medical Officers of the Army, until he chose to allow himself to be paraded before the public as a *victim* and a *martyr* to their *official*, and *prejudiced jealousy!!!* The only part of his work that can have the *slightest pretension* to be considered MEDICAL, *viz.* the "REPORTS OF JAMES GEORGE DAVEY, M. D." rendered, *by order*, to the Principal Medical Officer, were in a great measure compiled from works contained in the library of the Medical Officers of the Army serving in Ceylon; a valuable,

and extensive library, of which he was, on his arrival, invited to become an honorary Member,—and to which he had at all times access *up to the date of his departure from the Colony!*\*

Those who read the introduction to these remarks will see that there is a most extraordinary, and strange similarity between the opinions and feelings of Dr. Davey expressed in the year 1850, and those of his public supporter, and professed admirer Mr. Elliott, Editor of the *Colombo Observer*, published in the year 1848.

It is to Mr. Elliott that Dr. Davey owes his *unenviable notoriety* in Ceylon;—his official career was officially *known*, and *noted* from its commencement to its close,—but it was dragged into more public and conspicuous notice, *if his own assertions be true*, through the instrumentality of his friend Mr. Elliot alone! It remains for the *two parties concerned* to show that there was no collusion between them in the year 1848, but this cannot be done without the *most serious reflection* upon one, or other of them!

Both Dr. Davey, and Mr. Elliott (I know not to which of them I should give precedence) have set themselves forward as Public Reformers of the Medical Service in Ceylon! Let them both seriously consider the necessity of reformation else—

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\* I can speak positively on this point, as I was Secretary to the Institution during the whole period of Dr. Davey's service in Ceylon; and still continue to hold that office.

where, and confine their *extraordinary talents* to the removal of REAL, rather than to that of *imaginary ABUSES* ! Let them think, as two men of *peculiar genius*,—men who arrogate to themselves the right not only of expressing opinions, but of making public statements, *without possessing any information whatever as to their truth*, into what a sadly deplorable condition they might possibly plunge the insane, for whom they both profess such a kind sympathy and regard, if there were no men in Ceylon who would take the trouble of thinking for themselves, and if all were to consent to be *blindly led* by the unfounded statements of *either, or of both* !

That the public statements of both the one, and the other, regarding the statistical history of the insane in Ceylon for the last six years, have been *unfounded* I have already proved ;—and it now only remains for the *worthy pair*, in dividing the apple between them, to decide as to which of them *ignorance* coupled with *a most reprehensible credulity*, and *presumption*,—or to which *a total disregard of every principle of RECTITUDE, HONESTY, and HONOR*, shall belong.

FINIS.

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SUPPLEMENT TO "SHORT NOTES, &c."

I FIND that I have most inadvertently, fallen into a very great error in framing a tabular statement of mortality among the insane treated at Hendelle during the year 1843, which table I have published at page 80.

The mistake has been caused by the Clerk having read me off the numbers treated from the *total*, instead of from the *admission* columns of the different Monthly Returns, and I request that my readers may substitute the following table for that which they will find at page 80,

*Table showing the number of Lunatic and Epileptic Patients treated at Hendelle during the year 1843, with the Monthly and Yearly per Centage of Mortality amongst them.*

Months.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Died.	Monthly per centage of deaths.	Yearly per centage of deaths.
January... ..	18	4	22	„	3.	36.6.
February.....	„	1	1	1		
March.....	„	„	„	„		
April... ..	„	„	„	„		
May.....	„	„	„	1		
June... ..	„	„	„	1		
July.....	„	1	1	„		
August.....	„	1	1	2		
September.....	„	2	2	„		
October... ..	„	1	1	2		
November.....	„	2	2	1		
December.....	„	„	„	3		
Total..	18	12	30	11	3.	36.6

From the above table it appears that the per centage of mortality was, in 1843, as high as 36.6; but neither so high as 59.7, nor so low as 4.8, as it would appear to have been from the first table which I have published, and which I now find correct in all its calculations, but faulty from the incorrect data which have been, *most provokingly* supplied to me.

In consequence of the alteration of this table, it will be necessary to read at page 79. *seven lines from the bottom*, 36.6 as the per centage of mortality during the year 1843, instead of 4.8.