through the cells, which are the receptacles of this living death, and his heart, while indulging in thankfulness at his own exemption, will melt in tenderness and be bowed down in sorrow, and, unable to scan the mysteriousness of the dispensation which has allowed the disturbance of the harmonious action of the immortal mind, he will "wait the great teacher, death, and God adore".

If a man could look without emotion on the chained occupants of these lonely cells in their retrieveless banishment, the very stones in the walls would upbraid him for his inhumanity. Your committee have now arrived at the last subject of investigation, viz, the wants of the insane paupers of the Alms house. As this subject, so very interesting to humanity, has never before been presented in detail to the City Council, your committee claim your kind indulgence while they present, as briefly as possible, the considerations which have forcibly impressed their own minds.

Untill the closing decade of the last century, insanity was considered an incurable disease; and mental philosophy and medical science were equally uninformed as to its nature and treatment. It was supposed to be inflicted as a judgement of heaven in consequence of the commission of crime; and therefore all efforts to effect its removal would be unavailing. Your committee will not wound your sensibilities by expatiating on the employment of chains and stripes, and various other cruelties which were deemed the proper antidotes for insanity, nor draw the picture of the poor maniac manacled and bound in his filthy cell in which humanity should not have allowed a wild beast to be confined, and where, having lost almost every feature which distinguishes his nature, the feeble rays of returning reason were essentially extinguished in the impenetrable gloom of an endless night. Humanity draws the veil over this most pitiable scene of mortal woe, and records her vow that enlightened and philanthropic efforts for the future shall atone for the ignorance of the past.

In 1792 the elder Pinel like an angel of mercy who had come down from heaven on errand of love, having obtained permission from the Commune of Paris to test his medical views of insanity on the patients at the Bicetre, entered the dreary cell of

an English captain who had been chained for forty years, and had killed an attendant with his manacled hands, and having first addressed him words of kindness and obtained a promise of submission, knocked off his fetters. The man walked about his house and grounds, and surveying the expanded sky exclaimed "how beautiful". In two years he was cured and discharged. The case of Cheniqui was equally decided. In the course of a few days the shackles were removed from fifty three lunatics, and the furious madman renounced his habits of violence, cleanliness and decency succeeded filth and nakedness; and tumult and disorder were displaced by tranquillity and harmony. Thus was consummated the glorious triumph of modern mental science over barbaric ignorance, and the rays of this risen sun are now penetrating to every dark corner of the civilized world.

In no well conducted asylum for the insane are chains and stripes and other cruel punishments any longer inflicted. The inmates have various employments and amusements, and are statedly assembled for religious worship. Europe and America have erected hundreds of large hospitals for the cure of diseased minds. Public benefaction and private philanthropy have combined to produce this benevolent result, and now, at the close of half a century, since Pinel entered the Bicetre, a jubilee might justly be held to commemorate his deeds.

Having indulged in the expression of their views in relation to the humanity of suitable provision for the insane poor, your committee will now consider the subject in its economical relations. It has been demonstrated that, when appropriate medical and moral treatment are combined, insanity yields as readily, if not more readily, than ordinary acute diseases. But it is necessary, for the production of this result, that the patient should receive early ~~treatment~~ and under the most favourable circumstances. Nine out of ten are restored when patients are properly treated within three months from the first attack, thirty five in one hundred in old cases, and eighty one in the hundred, taking the aggregate of all cases. When the disease is of more than two years continuance, the proportion of cures is only as fourteen to seventy nine. It will thus be seen that the prospects for cure diminish with the continuance of the disease; but cases of long continuance are not to be deemed hopeless unless there be functional disorder, indicating the existence of organic