

THE O. C. DAILY.

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EVENING MEETING.

Last evening Mr. Hamilton gave a particular account of his visit to Wallingford, and his call on Victor on his return home. There is good evidence that Victor is almost wholly recovered, and will be able to return to his friends soon. Theodore remarked:

“Victor wrote to his father a while ago to the effect that the doctors did not wish the CIRCULARS to be sent to him any longer on account of the bad moral influence the paper exerted. Dr. Gray said he looked that letter over, and said to Victor he did not think he told the truth strictly, in ascribing his stopping it to that cause. Victor was free to draw his own inferences, but he had said nothing about the moral character of the paper either way, and didn't care about giving him his reasons for stopping it. It was enough that he wanted it stopped. He then told us he stopped it solely on medical grounds, in his treatment of the case. He explained it in this way: When in the stage of acute mania, patients are easily excited and stimulated to a high pitch. Their brains are very active. That runs its course, and then comes a reaction, in which the patient passes into what is called dementia. In the stage of acute mania, they

run down in flesh and suffer from lack of nutrition. When they pass on into the state of dementia they gain in flesh, as pretty much all they do is to eat and sleep. Some land in that state and never come out of it. When they gradually come out of it there is danger that excitement may bring on another attack of acute mania:

"Dr. Gray said when Victor first came there he was very mischievous, and very insubordinate, and disposed to get away. He was very abusive in his references to his father, and was always playing some pranks, like pulling handkerchiefs out of peoples pockets, opening the windows, or whatever he could think of to annoy people. During this period he run down in flesh, and became quite thin. After that he went into the state of dementia, grew dull and was disposed to sleep most of the time. He then passed into a state where he didn't want to see any one, and was very sensitive about his position. In that state he liked to have him read the CIRCULAR, because it stimulated his intellectual powers, and helped him to get rid of torpor. Now he had passed out of that state and begun to hold discussions with the other patients, and if his mind was over-stimulated, he would be in danger of another attack of acute mania. He is in a ward with a number of persons who have a great deal of religious ardor, and they are very opinionated, as such persons are apt to be. If left to hold their discussions, there

would be no end to them. The Doctor said he would not allow discussions on politics, any more than on religion. He has a number of persons there, who were engaged on the side of the South, in the late war, and if he should allow discussions on political subjects, they would have a strange time of it. He said he told the Southerners they must stop their discussions, as he would not allow them to go on. There was one in particular, very fond of recounting his exploits, and he told him, 'I have no sympathy whatever with what you have done; but as a sick person and my patient, I do sympathize with you, and for that reason I want you to stop these discussions.' He stopped the CIRCULAR because it was getting to create quite an excitement every week, as Victor would bound out into pretty fierce discussions, and it was having a bad influence in a medical point of view.

"I thought the doctor was quite careful to disclaim passing any opinion on the moral aspect of the CIRCULAR. He said in the course of six or eight weeks Victor would be so far recovered that he could be taken out, and it would do him good to study some, in a steady way, if he did not do too much, in order to get his mind in a state where he could reason systematically without excitement.

"I was quite interested in talking with Dr. Gray.— He strikes me as a person who is in some sense a genius and well adapted to his position. He seems to

have a good deal of decision of character, and insight into the ways of the insane. He said to me that when young persons were taken with acute mania they run risk of having the development of their brains and intellectual powers arrested. If attacked by acute mania before the brain is fully developed and the intellectual powers matured, the development is stopped, and there is danger that it will never be completed. In fact it was quite rare he said for young persons to fully recover from such an attack.— They generally showed some evidence of arrested mental development through life. But he said from present symptoms, he should think Victor was going to entirely recover, if he keeps on as well as he is doing, and that would be rather an exception to the rule."

I wish to express my thankfulness to the family for their sincerity in criticising me. I have realized as I never did before, that the *truth*, however mortifying it may be, is the only thing that can save me from my old life. I do not think that I have ever truly appreciated criticism, but have stood in fear and dread of it. I hope by the grace of Christ, that hereafter I shall always give it a warm loving place in my heart.

L. F. DUNN.

Yesterday's temperature—

7½ A. M., 48. 12 M., 44. 6 P. M., 34. Mean 42.