Festivities and dancing at a place devoted to the residence and treatment of the insane naturally suggest a curious incongruity to the majority of people, and yet these things form a regular leaand yet these things form a regular jeature in the weekly programme of the institution. These insane asylum balls are very interesting events and generally attract quite a large number of spectators, considering the distance of the establishment from the city. The assembly takes place in the amusement hall, on the upper story of the asylum, which is a large and handsome apartment. The number of patients participating in the festivities is generally from forty to sixty, and frequently more than the latter figure. The ball room is brilliantly lighted, and with its lofty ceiling and tasteful adornments a highly pleasing apartment. from forty to sixty, and frequently more than the latter figure. The ball room is brilliantly lighted, and with its lofty ceiling and tasteful adornments The music is generally a piano and two Main Street, opposite Express Office, violins, the musicians usually being Dr. Leffingwell, assistant physician, and one of the attendants, and a patient who understands music excellently.-Besides the patients who directly participated in the dancing, quite a large number are entertained by watching the spectacle of dancers. The usual plan is to arrange the sets so that half the number on the floor is composed of patients. Care is always taken to prevent two insane people acting as part-ners. Visitors and the attendants join in the dancing and form half the sets .-Quadrilles and round dances are executed, and the patients mingle in both Upholsterer, Manufacturer, with the utmost spirit. Of course, as in every incident connected with asylum life, a constant watchfulues has to be kept over the patients, but rarely if over, does anything occur to disturb the harmony of the proceedings. Visticrs are frequently astonished at the order and decorum preserved, and find it difficult to realize that more than onehalf of those present belong to that un-fortunate class cursed by the blight of mental aberration. The spectacle of the hall as the dance is in progress, has, moreover some curious features, which remind a thoughtful spectator that there is something peculiar about the assembly which otherwise looks like any other festival gathering. The harmonious music of many voices which usually characterizes a dancing party is absent Mad people, as a general thing, are not talkative, except in a broken incoherent rons-all of which will be sold at prices to suit manuer, and when a number of them the times. are together, and when some unusual excitement prevails. The comparative silence where one expects naturally the sound of human voices in conversation and laughter, is one of the most prominent characteristics. When amused and interested, the insane pausual hum of voices strikes a spectator at once when he first glances on the mad people's ball. They do talk and laugh to a certain extent, but the prevailing sound when the music ceases has an outro element in it, and is different in quality as well as quantity from the

usual accompaniment of a ball room. The patients are all neatly dressed and in deportment there was nothing observable to which the most fustidious could object. An examination of the faces of the crazy folks as they are participating in amusements of this sort, is a most interesting study. Once thor oughly interested, and they lose more half that peculiar expression which in the majority of cases characterizes insanity. In the perversion of intellect they may not be able to un. derstand the exact meaning of words addressed to them, but the simple programme of an evening's pleasure as skillfully devised now in our public institutious, appeals to them in a different way. The light, cheerful music soothes them, and the animation around | New and Beautiful Styles of awakes their interest, while the example of others exercise its influence Then in many cases, the patients previous to the derangement of their reasons understood dancing,' and the scene recalls dimly visions and scenes of the

In many instances a female or male face could be seen which illustrated the deep interest excited even among the insane by such amusements The expression was that of absorbed attention F. HOYT, SUMTER, ment. One could understand at a glance the struggle in the disordered mind Charmed away from its detusions by the influence of others and the scene around, it was endeavoring to It was, in fact, as if one were looking tion of "through a glass darkly," for insanity is oftener obscurity of mental visions as to the relation of things than a mere disorder of faculties or one erowning hallucination. Again, here might be seen a young girl, so evidently pleased with her surroundings that she could not help but laugh gleefully now and then, becoming almost sane in the nat-uralness of her feelings. The dancing is kept up to quite a late hour, and when it terminates everybody seems in excellent humor and the patients are St. Joseph's Academy. escorted smiling, to their quarters.

LIFE AND ITS END .- Remember for what purpose you were born, and thro' the whole of life look at its end. Consider, when that comes, in what you will put your trust. Not in the bubble of worldly vanity-it will be broken; nor in worldly pleasure-they will be gone; not in great connections-they cannot serve you; not in wealth-you cannot carry it with you; not in rankin the grave there is no distinction; not in the recollection of a life spent in conformity to the silly fashions of a thoughtless and wicked world; but trust in Christ, in a life spent scherly, righteously and wisely in the present

- "Come, Bob, get up," said an indulgent father to his hopeful son the other morning. "Remember the early bird catches the worm." "What do I care for worms?" replied the young hopeful; "mother wou't let me go to BRIDAL PRESENTS.

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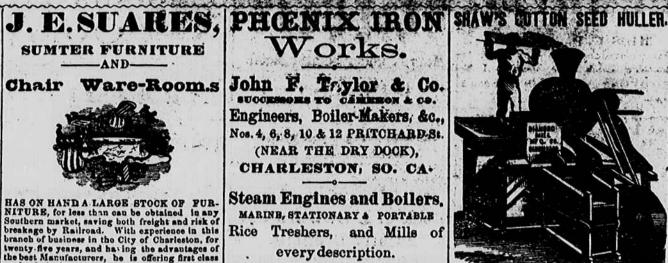
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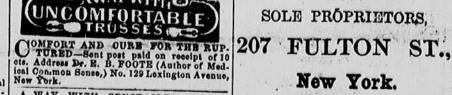
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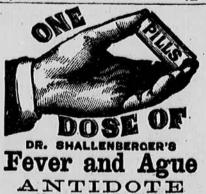
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