

*Obituary.*

## DR. W. G. METCALF.

We were not able to record in our last number the melancholy death of Dr. Metcalf, of the Kingston Asylum, Ontario, which occurred on the 16th of August last. We now proceed to give some particulars of the tragedy. No words can adequately express our regret for the sad event and our sympathy with the survivors who mourn his loss at the early age of 38. We can speak from personal knowledge of the satisfactory condition of the asylum of which he was superintendent, and where he was beloved by his colleagues and by the patients to whose interests he devoted himself.

It appears that on the 13th of August Dr. Metcalf and Dr. Clarke, the Assistant Medical Officer, were making their usual morning visit. They had just entered the new separate building, which has already been described in this Journal,\* when a male patient named Maloney, who stood in the corridor, suddenly turned round and assaulted Dr. Metcalf. He had possessed himself of a knife,† and stabbed his victim in the abdomen. When removed from the ward, Dr. Metcalf was found to be suffering from a wound in the back of the thigh and another, two or three inches long, across the abdomen, from which the intestines protruded, but were not wounded. Peritonitis, however, supervened, and Dr. Metcalf died from this cause and from shock on the 16th August, 1885.

The patient Maloney had been sent to the asylum in September, 1884, having previously been in gaol as an incendiary. When awaiting his trial he is said to have acted very strangely, refusing to eat and suspecting poison. A Board of Examination, consisting of the gaol surgeon, Dr. Oliver, Dr. Sullivan, and a judge, gave their opinion in a report, Dr. Sullivan pronouncing the prisoner perfectly sane, while Dr. Oliver held that he was insane and dangerous, while the judge certified that he was weak in body and mind and unfit to take care of himself. He was not, however, sent at first to an asylum, but remained for trial at the Assizes in September, 1884, where he was indicted, but was not tried for the offence, as the jury found him insane, upon which he was transferred to the Kingston Asylum. We observe that popular feeling, indignant in consequence of the cruel fate of Dr. Metcalf, clamoured for the execution of Maloney as a responsible criminal. We are assured, however, on the best authority, that he is unquestionably a lunatic.

The funeral of Dr. Metcalf took place at Uxbridge, and was largely attended, the pall-bearers being Dr. Workman, of Toronto; Dr. Daniel Clark, of the Toronto Asylum, and Drs. Bucke and Burgess, of the London Asylum, Ontario, where the deceased physician was formerly an assistant medical officer; Dr. Covertton, of Toronto; Professor Osler, of Philadelphia; and Dr. O'Reilly, Inspector of Asylums.

Dr. Clarke, Dr. Metcalf's brother-in-law, has been promoted from the post of Assistant to that of Medical Superintendent. The Board of Management, while deploring the loss they have sustained, may congratulate themselves on having secured the services of so efficient and kind-hearted a successor. He is the son of the Hon. Charles Clarke, the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature.

## PROSPER LUCAS, M.D.

The well-known author of the classical work on Heredity, entitled "*Traité philosophique et physiologique de l'hérédité naturelle dans les états de santé et de maladie du système nerveux*," died recently, at the age of 77, at Mennecey (Seine-et-Oise). M. Lucas was formerly physician at the Bicêtre and the Asylum of Sainte Anne, where we had the pleasure of meeting him in 1878.

\* January, 1885.

† It is stated that the knife was an improvised one, the blade, which was three inches long, having been fixed into a handle.

He was born at Saint-Brieuc in 1808. He took an active part in the political events of 1848, and on two occasions was returned at the elections.

M. Lucas was not a voluminous writer, but he was also the author of a dissertation entitled, "De l'imitation contagieuse, ou de la propagation sympathétique des névroses et des monomanies."

M. Lucas will be remembered, however, by his treatise on Heredity, which, at the time it was published, was far in advance of anything that had been written. It was stated in the obituary notice of him in the "Temps" that the author had collected together, in his attendance on the insane, numerous documents which he intended to utilize in a volume supplementary to his large work, in which he would have studied the laws which regulate the inheritance of mental affections.

#### DR. LUNIER.

During the Congress of Mental Medicine held at Antwerp in September last, the unexpected death of M. Lunier was announced by the President as having occurred in Paris on the 5th of that month. The intelligence was communicated by his fellow-editor of the "Annales Médico-Psychologiques," M. Foville, who delivered a feeling discourse over his tomb, in which he stated that M. Lunier had been for nearly 40 years attached to the public service of the insane, including the honourable office of Inspector-General of the "services administratifs" of the Minister of the Interior. M. Foville points out that, while his numerous scientific works procured for him well-merited renown among alienist physicians, his publications relative to the administration of asylums extended his reputation beyond the limits of France, and that in this twofold character he has been considered by the foreigner, since the death of Parchappe, as one of the most eminent authorities in the science of medical administration in regard to the insane. We learn from this discourse that M. Lunier was *interne* of the Paris hospitals, and spent several years at the Salpêtrière. After being at the private asylum at Ivry, founded by Esquirol, he became Medical Superintendent of the lunatic asylum at Niort in 1851. Subsequently he took charge of the asylum at Blois, where he introduced numerous improvements and organized a quarter for paying patients, which remains one of the best in France. Appointed inspector in 1864, he contributed largely to the construction of asylums in the provinces. During the siege of Paris, when his duties as inspector were paralysed, he took an active part in assisting the "Ambulances of the Press," and he received the Cross of Officer of the Legion of Honour in acknowledgment of his indefatigable energy. During the International Congress of Mental Medicine in Paris, 1878, we received from him the "Rapport à M. le Ministre de l'Intérieur sur le service des aliénés en 1874," prepared by himself in conjunction with two *collaborateurs*, and found it to contain an able sketch of the past history of insane administration in France. At the Congress he was, perhaps, the most intelligent speaker in the discussion on the French law of lunacy, and consistently with this he took a leading part in the recent revision of the law of 1838 relative to the insane, personally assisting the Minister of the Interior, M. Fallières, in the preparation of the *projet de loi*, which has been for some time under the consideration of Parliament. Interested in questions bearing on the practice of medicine and the interests of the medical profession, M. Lunier was a member of the General Association of French Physicians from its foundation, and was one of the most useful members of the Council. He was also for long the treasurer of the French Psychological Association.

We must not omit to mention that M. Lunier was specially interested in the Société de Tempérance. In the name of this Association M. Motet pronounced a discourse at the tomb in his customary glowing language:—"Cruel death, by a blow as brutal as it was unforeseen, breaks our union, the closeness of which I measure by the grief which affects me. Let your friendship for me excuse my reference to it. All who have enjoyed the society of Lunier will