

BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

We have received the following circular which Dr. Miller has addressed to the Medical Superintendents of Asylums in England and Wales.

WARWICK COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,
HATTON, NEAR WARWICK;

November 12th, 1901.

Dear Sir,—At the April meeting of the North and Midland Division of the Medico-Psychological Association I introduced the subject of the desirability of forming a bureau of information regarding asylum administration.

At the last meeting of the Council in July, a motion was unanimously carried to the effect that I should proceed with the work. Before going further I think it desirable that I should explain the nature of my scheme, and obtain the vote of my fellow superintendents as to whether they are willing to assist me in the matter, as it would be impossible to carry out my object without the assistance of, at all events, a very large proportion of my fellow workers.

The object of the Bureau would be—

1. To receive the original query from any superintendent desiring information.
2. To send out the queries to all asylums.
3. To receive the replies and tabulate the answers in the manner prescribed in the original query.
4. To send the replies to the questioners and to those who have responded to the query.
5. To preserve and publish, if desirable, for circulation among the members these replies, keep them up to date by annual corrections, and to forward a copy to each contributor.
6. A subscription of 10s. 6d. to be charged for the first year, the accounts to be audited by the Association auditors, and the question of future subscription to be considered by the members of the Bureau.

Are you willing to assist me by allowing your queries to pass through my hands on the understanding that—

1. You receive a statement showing the result of your query tabulated to your wishes;
2. That a copy of such tabulated statement be sent to all from whom replies are received;

And that all information in the Bureau be at your service when required?

Believe me, yours faithfully,
ALFRED MILLER.

‘HANDBOOK FOR NURSES AND ATTENDANTS.’

We are requested to state that as the 15,000 copies of the Handbook which have been printed up to the present date are almost sold out, the further issue of 5000 copies has been sanctioned by the Council. It is considered undesirable to introduce at the present moment any such alterations as would necessarily constitute the re-issue of a new edition, since such a step would, to a certain extent, put out of date the many thousand copies now in use. It is felt that the time has not yet come for a thorough revision. Nevertheless the Council considered that some instructions for the prevention of the spread of consumption in asylums might well be added, and a sub-committee (Drs. Spence and Weatherly) was requested to draw them up. They will be printed on a separate sheet and can be readily pasted on the inside of the covers of the book. These will be supplied gratis with the re-issue, and to bring up the existing copies to the same level of usefulness it has been arranged that copies in the same form will be supplied by the publishers (Messrs. Baillière and Co., 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden) on receipt of a stamped and addressed wrapper. It is suggested that medical superintendents should cause such application to be made in respect of all the copies now in use at their respective asylums.

We also understand that the re-issue will contain the altered regulations for training and examination which have been passed by the Association since the first issue of the present edition.

RESIGNATION OF DR. YELLOWLEES.

The resignation of Dr. Yellowlees as Physician Superintendent of the Glasgow Royal Asylum has not been altogether unexpected by those who were aware of his recent illness and the grave affection of his eyesight; but still it will be difficult to imagine Gartnavel without him, so identified has the work of his later years become with the fame of that beneficent institution. We understand, however, that Dr. Yellowlees does not intend to seek release from the practice of his profession or the work of teaching, and we may hope to see him at our meetings as enthusiastic and as helpful as ever. We have also good reason to hope that he will place on record the impressions and recollections of his long experience of asylum life, and can assure him of a hearty welcome to any book he may produce, promising as it would a variety of incidents and reflections on things new and old.

Dr. Yellowlees took his degree in Edinburgh in 1857, and was then associated with Sir W. T. Gairdner and Professor Spence in their hospital work. In the following year he was appointed to a junior post at Morningside under the late Dr. Skae, his colleagues having been Sir John Sibbald and Professor John Young. General practice in Yorkshire engaged his attention for two years. After that valuable experience he returned to Morningside, whence he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Glamorgan County Asylum in 1863. On the resignation of the late Dr. Macintosh, Dr. Yellowlees was appointed to Gartnavel in 1874. At that time there was a debt of £10,000 on the institution, a debt which has been converted into a surplus of £30,000 as the result of his skilful management. Many changes have been recorded in the administration of Gartnavel during the twenty-seven years which have elapsed since Dr. Yellowlees' appointment. Gartnavel is now devoted to private patients only, and the numbers exceed those of any other similar institution in the country. The charitable action of the asylum is deserving of all praise. A new dining hall, the reconstruction of wards, the introduction of electric lighting, and the reorganisation of the whole institution form the basis of a long history of successful management.

Honours have been paid to Dr. Yellowlees in recognition of his worth and ability. He served as President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons from 1892 to 1894, as President of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1890, as President of the Psychological Section of the British Medical Association in 1885. The University of Glasgow, where he has been Lecturer on Insanity since 1880, conferred on him the degree of LL.D., and various foreign societies for the study of psychiatry have included him among their honorary members.

Dr. Yellowlees has thus had the widest relations with his professional brethren and the public, and we hope that his views and reviews will be given to the world at no distant date.

He retires on the handsome pension of £1200 per annum, with the best wishes of the directors of the Glasgow Royal Asylum. Confident in Dr. Oswald's ability to maintain the high level of efficiency to which Gartnavel has been brought, Dr. Yellowlees may now devote himself to work of a less harassing nature, and we are assured that our readers will join with us in hoping that he will yet see many and useful days.

OBITUARY.

HENRY SUTHERLAND.

Dr. Henry Sutherland, whose death on November 19th last we are grieved to record, was a greatly esteemed and long-standing member of our Association.