

Diagnosis and Treatment by the Physiological Method," which, in 1866, was revised by his son, and is now a standard work on the subject. In 1876 an Association of Medical Officers of American Institutions for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Persons was founded, and Dr. Seguin was elected its first president. To this society he contributed various papers. He was several times appointed delegate to the International Medical Congresses which have been held in different parts of Europe, and he attended from time to time the meetings of the British Medical Association. Of late he had taken much interest in and became an advocate of the metric system in medicine, and only this autumn read a paper on that subject at the International Congress of Hygiene at Turin. Dr. Seguin was a man of indomitable energy and great perseverance. He possessed a highly cultivated intellect, which through a long and active life was devoted to the best interests of the imbecile. His amiable character secured him many friends, not only in his own country, but also in England. Though he is dead his work still lives, and will grow and extend as years roll on.

F. B.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence has been forwarded to us for publication :—

St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton,
Oct. 1st, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—In the "Journal of Mental Science," which I have just received, I notice that in the discussion of Mr. Mould's paper on "Lunatic Hospitals" at the meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, held in London on July 30th, Dr. Thompson is reported to have said "he heard that at Northampton they were making thousands a year, and that they did not know what to do with it, and yet the poor patients whom it was meant for were swept up and sent into the pauper lunatic asylums."

Will you be good enough to inform me whether this is a correct report, and, if so, will you also give me your authority for such a statement?

I am, yours faithfully,
Dr. George Thompson. J. BAYLEY.

City and County Lunatic Asylum,
Stapleton, near Bristol,
Oct. 2nd, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—I hope to be able, in the course of a few days, to reply in detail to your letter of the 1st inst.; meanwhile I will ask you to favour me by sending to me copies of your Reports for the years 1878 and 1879. Strange to say, these are the only Reports I do not possess.

Believe me to be, my dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
Dr. Joseph Bayley, &c., &c. GEORGE THOMPSON.

St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton,
November 19th, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—On Oct. 2nd you wrote: "I hope to be able, in the course of a few days, to reply in detail to your letter of the 1st inst."

As I have not yet heard from you, I think it possible the matter may have escaped your memory. I hope you received the Reports, which I sent by return of post.

I am, yours faithfully,
Dr. Thompson. J. BAYLEY.

City and County Lunatic Asylum, Stapleton, near Bristol,
Nov. 21st, 1880.

MY DEAR SIR,—I ought to have replied to your letter of the 1st of October long before this, but I had some difficulty in finding the relatives of a former patient of yours who subsequently became a pauper inmate of this asylum; and then I must confess to sheer neglect as the further cause of delay in my answer.

I admit that the report contained in the Journal was somewhat like what I said at the meeting, and you will see that I put it in the form of questions, not knowing that at the moment I rose to speak you had left the room. I was much surprised to find when I had done speaking that you did not reply. Although I had the case I have just mentioned (and others not squeezed out of your asylum) in my memory, at the end of my speech I only meant to imply that at your asylum thousands a year of profit were made, while probably the same thing was going on elsewhere in similar institutions.

If, then, I was wrong in saying that the process of squeezing out was carried on at your asylum, I freely apologise to you; but surely your Annual Reports, as well as the Lunacy Blue Books, show that all the sums received annually at your asylum are not spent entirely on the care of your patients, but that some of it goes for other purposes. As at the time you wrote to me, the Report of your asylum for the year 1877 was the latest one I could place my hands on, I will quote only from that and the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy for the same year:—

1877.—Total expenditure, as per Asylum Report.....	£33,678	18	4
„ Average weekly cost, in the Commissioners' Report ...	£22,310	12	4
„ Unaccounted for, but including balance due from Institution of £3,115 16s. 10d.....	£11,368	6	0

I remain, my dear Sir, yours faithfully,
To J. Bayley, Esq., &c., &c. GEORGE THOMPSON (Med. Supt).

St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton,
November 22nd, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—As you do not give me the name of the patient who you say became an inmate of your asylum after leaving this hospital, I cannot ascertain the circumstances under which he or she was discharged; but I can say that no patient has been removed from here and sent to a pauper asylum unless the Committee of Management had fully satisfied themselves by careful enquiry that the case was not deserving of assistance from charity.

In your reply to my first letter, you asked me to send you our Reports for the years 1878 and 1879, hinting that you could not reply in detail until you had them. You have had those Reports nearly two months, and yet you now say that the Report for 1877 is the latest you could place your hands on, and that you will quote only from that.

If you have made use of the Reports I sent you, you must have seen that the profits made, which you state are unaccounted for, have been, and are, used solely for the benefit of the patients:—

1st.—By the purchase of an estate in the neighbourhood for the express purpose of enabling us to provide accommodation for chronic patients of the middle classes, so that we may reserve the wards here for acute and curable cases only.

2ndly.—By supporting about ninety patients for sums considerably below the cost of their maintenance, several being kept and clothed free of charge.

3rdly.—By very large expenditure in extensions and improvements, and also in the purchase of furniture.

4thly.—In reality, a large proportion of the patients who are not counted in the charity do derive charitable assistance, inasmuch as their payments are not remunerative, unless any return in the shape of rent is overlooked, and they have comforts and accommodation for which they would have to pay much more elsewhere.

In this statement I am corroborated by the following extracts from the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy on their visit in October last.

Referring to the house occupied on our recently-purchased estate, they say:—

“We were much pleased with the home-like comfort provided for eighteen ladies of the chronic harmless class. All the ladies expressed themselves as much pleased with the place, and we do not consider that at any other place could these patients receive such accommodation for such payments.” Again, referring to the hospital itself, they say:—“In conclusion, we have only to express our gratification at the condition in which we found the hospital, and we hope that nothing will prevent its full development, supplying at it does, accommodation for a class not easy to provide for in many places.”

It is right that I should add that your figures are altogether misleading as to the surplus income of the hospital, for the average cost taken from the Commissioners' Report is based upon certain items of expenditure only, the Commissioners excluding all sums paid for rates and taxes, repairs to buildings, and other items, which together amount to a very large sum of money.

As your remarks were published in the “Journal of Mental Science,” I intend to send this correspondence to the same Journal.

Dr. Thompson. I am, yours faithfully,
J. BAYLEY.

Appointments.

BANKS, W., M.B., to be Assistant Medical Officer to the York Retreat.

SPENCE, J. B., M.D., to be Medical Superintendent of the Staffordshire Asylum, Burntwood, near Lichfield.

O'MEARA, T. P., M.B., L.R.C.S.I., to be Medical Superintendent of the Carlow District Asylum.

BOYD, R. J., L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., to be Assistant Medical Officer to the Cambridge County Asylum, at Fulbourn.

We are glad to observe that the Committee of this Asylum has at last appointed an Assistant Medical Officer, after, as shown by the Annual Reports, years of refusal to comply with the recommendations of the Lunacy Commissioners and the Home Secretary. It is not to the credit of the Justices that false ideas of economy should have for long left this County Asylum the only one in the Kingdom in the position of refusing to afford a Superintendent the assistance he requires, however ably he may perform his duties.

FIELD, A., M.B., C.M., to be Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum and Visiting Physician to the Lazaretto, Barbadoes.

HARRIS, F. W. H., M.R.C.S.E., to be Assistant Medical Officer to the Suffolk County Asylum.

RUTHERFORD, R. L., to be Assistant Medical Officer to the Devon County Asylum.

COMPTON, T. T., M.B., C.M., to be Junior Assistant Medical Officer to the Norfolk Asylum.

CLARK, A. CAMPBELL, M.B., C.M., Edin., to be Medical Superintendent of the Glasgow District Asylum at Bothwell.

Errata in No. CXV.

P. 386, line 12, read Dr. Bucknill (Manual of Psychological Medicine, p. 571.)

P. 471, line 14, read “Physiology.”

P. 471, lines 22-23, omit “for the British Medical Association,” and insert after “made,” the words “by the Medical Section of the British Association.”