

Act, which seems to have been specially framed to strain to the utmost the already neurotic relations of lunatics, and to drive Superintendents of Asylums and Hospitals to madness. Unfortunately, no representations as to the mischievous working of this Act are likely to receive much notice from its framers, who showed but scant courtesy to those familiar with lunacy work while the Bill was in progress; but, at least, it might be claimed that the Magistrates and Justices should properly perform their part of the work. It does not seem to be generally understood that a Justice of the Peace in one division of the County of London may still sign a reception order, though the patient happens to have been removed to another division, and perhaps already admitted to a hospital or asylum under an urgency order. Apologizing for trespassing at such length on your valuable space,

I am, etc.,

R. PERCY SMITH.

Bethlem Royal Hospital.

Obituary.

DR. JOHN S. BUTLER

Was Superintendent of the Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, Connecticut, during nearly thirty years. He was born in Hartford, but his parents, when he was quite young, removed to Northampton, Massachusetts, where he passed the years of his boyhood.

Dr. Butler graduated from Yale College with the degree of B.A., in 1825, and immediately entered on the study of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. He took the degree of M.D. in 1828, and soon afterwards began the general practice of medicine in the city of Worcester, Massachusetts, where he remained ten years. It was during this period that the Massachusetts Lunatic Hospital was erected at Worcester, and opened for patients under the superintendency of Dr. Samuel B. Woodward, who afterwards became the first President of the Association of Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane. Dr. Butler here formed the acquaintance of Dr. Woodward, and also became greatly interested in his methods of treatment and care of the insane, and it was due to the influence of Dr. Woodward, at least in some measure, that Dr. Butler left the general practice of medicine in Worcester, and went to Boston, where he afterwards became the Superintendent of the Boston Lunatic Hospital. He, however, retained this position only about two years.

In 1843 Dr. Butler was appointed Superintendent of the Retreat at Hartford. He succeeded in this position Dr. Amariah Brigham, who left the Retreat to become Superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital at Utica, New York, which was then in process of erection.

As already intimated, it was at the Retreat that Dr. Butler passed the larger portion of his active professional life. It was during his superintendency that the buildings which now comprise the fourth and fifth halls were erected.

During 1868 and 1869 the series of improvements, consisting in the remodelling of the second, first, third, and parlour halls, both north and south, were consummated. He also raised funds by solicitation of subscriptions, mainly in Hartford, for grading and rearranging the grounds of the Retreat, whereby the present lawn, which is celebrated for its attractions, became possible.

Dr. Butler, in his 70th year, left the Retreat and had the care of a private patient during several years. He afterwards was Chairman of the State Board of Health, and wrote its first report.

He retained his interest in his profession, and to some degree in that department of it in which he was so long an active member, to the last. He was especially happy in his methods of conversation and association with the insane, and had the faculty of securing the confidence of his patients.

It is to be regretted, in view of his long professional career and large experience with the insane, that his contributions to medical literature were not more numerous. They consisted mainly in his yearly reports, and a small volume on "The Curability of Insanity."

Dr. Butler was one of the founders of the Association of Superintendents, and during many years a regular attendant at its meetings. The Association met at Hartford in 1870, and elected Dr. Butler as President.

He was very social, and delighted in story-telling. He was especially fond of the society of the younger members of the profession, and retained his habit of associating much with them until near the last.

His health was remarkably good until about two months before his death, when he had a slight attack of paralysis. He, however, soon rallied from the more immediate effects of this, but thenceforth gradually failed, and died May 21st, 1890. H. P. S.

NOVEL BY A MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGIST.

During the last few years instances have not been wanting of members of our Profession indulging in romance. The names of Sir Henry Thompson, Dr. B. W. Richardson, Dr. Weir Mitchell, will at once occur to the reader. We understand that another proof that medical science is consistent with the composition of fiction is shortly to come from the ranks of our own special branch of Medicine. A member of the Medico-Psychological Association has in the press an historical novel entitled "In the Days of Akber and Elizabeth." It relates the fortunes of the crew of the *Unicorn*, the first ship which left England to open up the trade with India. The scene is laid principally in Surat, Ahmadnagar and Agra. The literary ability of the author, combined with psychological insight and original thought, promises a work which will have a special interest for the readers of the "Journal of Mental Science."

Appointments.

ANDERSON, T., M.D. Lond., appointed Consulting Physician to the York Lunatic Asylum.

AVELINE, H. T. S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Lond., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Bristol City Lunatic Asylum.

GREATBATCH, HERBERT W., M.B., C.M. Edin., appointed Junior Assistant Medical Officer to the Montrose Royal Asylum.

HAVELOCK, JOHN G., M.B., C.M. Edin., appointed Assistant Medical Officer of the Royal Lunatic Asylum, Montrose.

HICKS, J. ABERNETHY, jun., L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., has been appointed Third Assistant Medical Officer to the Whittingham County Asylum, Preston, Lancashire.

HOWDEN, JAS. C., M.D. Edin., re-appointed Medical Superintendent of the Royal Asylum, Montrose.

JOHNSTON, DAVID, M.D. Aberd., re-appointed Consulting Physician to the Royal Lunatic Asylum and Infirmary, Montrose.

SUFFERN, A. C., M.D., M.Ch., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Rubery Hill Asylum, *vice* Thomas Lyle, resigned.

SYRÉE, ANTON HUGH, M.R.C.S., L.S.A. Lond., Assistant Medical Officer to the Wilts Asylum, appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the City of London Asylum.