

but never determined as they were by him. . . For us, gentlemen, in whose midst he took his place in 1867, too late according to our wishes, he was already known as one of ourselves by the writings with which he had enriched your 'Annales.' From the first he was one of the *collaborateurs* with his friend Morel. The historical studies on insanity, on its moral treatment, on certain asylums in Russia, belong to the period of 1844-1848. And subsequently the 'Archives Générales de Médecine,' as well as your 'Annales' are full of these monographs, wherein pages of vigorous brevity are condensed studies of the highest scientific value. Need I recall to you that *chef d'œuvre* of fine analysis called 'Le Délire de Persécution?' Published in February, 1852, the original memoir of Lasègue has circulated, we may say, throughout the scientific world. Everywhere this form, the outlines of which have been traced with so forcible a pen, has been accepted; nothing has been added to it, so precise was the description, the details of which had all been supplied by clinical observation. It has been the same with all Lasègue's works, and you know that they are numerous. From predilection he attached himself to Mental Medicine, into which he had been initiated by a master, a friend, the elder Falret. . . . Lasègue was a high authority in medico-legal questions. He owed this not less to the recognised independence of his character than to his great knowledge. He judged things from a height, with a precision, a nicety, which carried conviction. His concise reports, in a form sometimes aphoristic, expressed all that was necessary, and nothing more. We, his former colleagues, shall recall the part which he took at our discussions; we shall never forget what he was during our Congress of 1878, where, side by side with our venerated President, M. Baillarger, he appeared as one of the most distinguished representatives of Mental Medicine in France."

We regret that our space does not allow us to cite the whole of M. Motet's discourse, which is as true as it is eloquent.

Since the above was in type we have received from him a few particulars, which we subjoin:—"Charles Lasègue was born in Paris, Sept. 5, 1816. It was not intended he should follow Medicine, but forming a friendship with Claude Bernard and Morel he acquired a taste for Medical Science, and began to study it in consequence. It was at the Salpêtrière, in the wards of M. Falret *père*, that he applied himself to mental alienation, for which he was prepared by his psychological knowledge; and he became the favourite pupil, and then the friend of both Falret and Voisin. At the time of his death he was physician to the Hospital of La Pitié (as well as holding the appointments mentioned above). Lasègue died in the midst of his family, whom he so much loved. He was a man of the warmest affections, and faithful in his friendships. I do not speak of his superior intelligence; you know that as well as I do. His loss is acutely felt by all those who had the honour of his acquaintance."

T.

HERVEY B. WILBUR, M.D.

The death is announced of Dr. H. B. Wilbur, for upwards of 30 years Superintendent of the New York State Idiot Asylum. On May 1st he suffered from a sudden attack of illness whilst writing at his desk, and after rallying for a short time was seized with fatal syncope, the autopsy disclosing extensive fatty degeneration of the heart.

Dr. Wilbur was born in 1820, and was educated at Amherst College. After engaging for a time in the work of teaching, he studied civil engineering, but soon abandoned this field in order to study medicine. He possessed qualities that were admirably suited to this profession, in which he was successful from the start, in Lowell first, and afterwards at Barre. He was one of the first in America to turn attention to the care and rational treatment of idiots, and having made vain efforts to enlist the support of gentlemen of means, he received pupils in his house, and commenced in a humble way a work that was destined to com-

mand the attention of the profession and the public. The establishment of this school for idiots at Barre by Dr. Wilbur in 1848 seems to have preceded by a few months that of the Massachusetts Institution with which the name of Dr. S. G. Howe is so honourably connected. In 1851 the Legislature of New York authorised the foundation of a State Idiot Asylum, and Dr. Wilbur was appointed its Superintendent. In this work, carried on first at Albany and subsequently at Syracuse, he spent the remainder of his life, and his Reports show that to the development of the various measures calculated to promote the amelioration of idiots his best energies were devoted. Not only did he devise methods of education specially adapted for the feeble-minded folk placed under his charge, but he was ever ready to avail himself of opportunities of educating the various Legislatures as to the necessity of establishing State institutions for imbeciles. His zeal led him to make several tours to Europe to inspect kindred institutions both in this country and on the Continent; and during his last visit (in 1875) he seems to have devoted considerable attention to British modes of management of asylums for the insane. "Non-restraint" and "Employment for the Insane" formed the subjects of various pamphlets which he subsequently issued, and his enthusiasm in this direction sometimes carried him into controversy with his *confrères* engaged in lunacy practice. Whatever may be thought of his views as to the insane, it will be freely conceded that in all that concerned the treatment and care of idiots Dr. Wilbur was an eminent authority. To medical skill he added a thorough knowledge of educational methods. Resorting to specially-adapted modes of imparting instruction, he was able to work wonders in developing the perception of those whose feeble intellects would seem to the ordinary teacher to be beyond the reach of pedagogy. While his thought was centred with rare devotion on his professional work, Dr. Wilbur was at the same time a capable and careful administrator, and his management of the New York State Idiot Asylum won him repeated commendations from high official quarters. In addition to the Syracuse establishment, the character of which was mainly educational, he had also, for several years preceding his death, the supervision of a connected custodial Institution at Newark.*

Dr. Wilbur was a facile writer, and although he has not left behind any large work, he was the author of numerous monographs, and of an able article on "Idiocy" in "Johnson's Encyclopædia." He was also a ready speaker, and a frequent attendant at conferences relating to social and philanthropic matters. In 1878 he filled the office of President of the Association of Medical Officers of American Institutions for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Persons.

The estimation in which Dr. Wilbur was held by his medical neighbours is shown by the feeling terms in which his death was alluded to at a special meeting of the Syracuse Medical Society. "It would certainly be the highest pleasure that could be afforded to any of us," said the President, Dr. Pease, "to manifest here, by personal tributes, our respect and friendship for the honoured dead." Those of his British *confrères* who had the privilege of Dr. Wilbur's acquaintance will not soon forget the handsome presence, the manly outspokenness, and withal the courteous, genial manner which characterised the subject of this notice.

G. E. S.

WILLIAM SAMUEL TUKE, M.R.C.S.

William Samuel Tuke, who passed away at Bournemouth on April 20th, at the age of twenty-six years, was the eldest son of Dr. D. Hack Tuke, of London. He was a student of University College, where he obtained the gold medal in physiology, and the Killiter Exhibition in pathology. He also obtained the

* Described by Dr. Ireland, "Journal of Mental Science," Vol. xxvi., p. 216.