

belief that he would be able to stop in time. A very small quantity of alcohol was sufficient to upset him, and he drank on until he became maniacal, aggressive, threatening, and violent. Within twenty-four hours from this stage he became delirious, had hallucinations of sight, and often had severe epileptic fits. As soon as he was deprived of stimulants he rapidly regained his senses, and the intellectual troubles did not further bother him. Several times during these attacks he made various attempts to commit suicide, but during his sane intervals he had no recollection of ever having attempted to do such a thing; and also during these intervals suicidal tendencies were completely absent. He had been sent to prison frequently during these attacks, and once to an asylum; and during his last confinement in gaol he had made three attempts to commit suicide. Dr. Villeneuve believed that L. T—'s actions could therefore be declared as irresponsible, and that his behaviour was manifestly due to an abnormal or pathological inebriety, due to a predisposition inherited from his grandfather; that he should not be considered a lunatic, as no mental weakness could be detected during his intervals of temperance; and that he was not responsible for his attempts to commit suicide. In conclusion, Dr. Villeneuve considered that L. T— should be confined in an inebriates' home, such as they have in other countries for similar patients.

As regards the drunkenness, the question of his penal responsibility belonged to the courts. However, on account of his morbid heredity, which makes him a "prédisposé," a palliation of such responsibility should be admitted.

SOCIÉTÉ DE NEUROLOGIE.

We are requested to announce the formation of the Société de Neurologie at Paris on the 8th June. It is designed for the purpose of holding regular meetings of medical men engaged in the study of nervous diseases, and will have as an official organ the *Revue Neurologique*. The president is Dr. Joffroy, and the general secretary is Dr. Pierre Marie.

MONTROSE ROYAL ASYLUM.

Dr. Howden's last great work in connection with the Montrose Asylum was to provide accommodation for the private patients in a separate building. This house, which stands in the immediate neighbourhood of the original asylum, has lately been opened; and it has been named in commemoration of Mrs. Carnegie of Charleton and Pitarrow, to whose generosity the institution was first indebted. The changes which have occurred since 1780, when the insane were kept in the Tolbooth, are indeed very striking. Certainly no better equipped asylum than Montrose exists for the benefit of the insane, and it is well that the pious founder should be commemorated in its latest development.

SWIFT'S HOSPITAL.

This historic institution has at last begun to come into line with modern asylums. By the acquisition of St. Edmondsbury, Lucan, which has been open for some months, the patients will have the advantage of a palatial establishment in beautiful grounds. The environment is all that could be desired, and we hope that the benefits of St. Edmondsbury will soon be shared by all who are under treatment at Swift's Hospital. The original building has long stood condemned for the purposes of asylum care and treatment, and it is to be hoped that the committee of management will lose no time in formulating plans for a modern institution at Lucan with a view to abandon the present building to other purposes. Such an

asylum is urgently required for the middle classes in Ireland, its financial success would be certain, and it is surely incumbent on the trustees of Swift's great charity that they should make it what he would have desired—the best possible.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM PROFESSOR SIKORSKY.

In the JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE for January last, at page 174, I find a notice of my article on the *self-immured*. Although it was there translated from the *Revue Scientifique*, it was originally published in Russia in the journal of which I am editor—viz. *Voprosi Nerвно-psychitscheckoi Meditsin*. It is regularly sent to you, and is acknowledged in the list of your exchange journals.

[This letter from Professor Sikorsky gives us opportunity of directing attention to the Russian journals regularly received by us, and of inviting correspondents to undertake the translation of articles of interest in these periodicals.—Eds.]

SIR JOHN SIBBALD.

We have to congratulate Sir John Sibbald on the honour of knighthood which has crowned the work which he has accomplished as Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland. His professional career in the Edinburgh Royal Asylum and the Argyll District Asylum was continued for nearly thirty years in connection with the General Board of Lunacy. We rejoice that his valuable services to the insane have been thus recognised on his retiring into private life, and wish him long and happy days.

OBITUARY.

OCTAVIUS JEPSON, M.D.St. And., M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A.

Dr. Jepson was the eighth son (fourteenth child) of the late Mr. George Jepson, surgeon, of Gainsborough, and grandson of the Rev. George Jepson, prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral. He was born on July 24th, 1832, was educated privately at Newark and Southwell, and subsequently studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. In 1858 he graduated as M.D. St. Andrews and obtained the English qualifications of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.

In 1860 he was appointed an Assistant Medical Officer of the Middlesex County Asylum, Hanwell, and in 1862 was elected Medical Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, London, E.C. Towards the close of 1864 the Aldermen of the City of London decided to advertise for a Medical Superintendent for their asylum, then in course of construction at Stone, near Dartford, and after close competition Dr. Jepson was chosen from a large number of candidates, and entered into residence with the opening of the Institution in April, 1866. On the completion of twenty-one years' service he resigned in April, 1887, and was granted a pension of £800 a year (two-thirds pay and emoluments) by quarter sessions of the City of London, which pension he enjoyed for twelve years in quiet retirement at Sydenham, devoting himself to his extensive garden and books.

During the late spring and early summer months of each year he was to be seen at Margate, looking the picture of health, and apparently with a long span of life before him, but about eighteen months ago he began to flag, and developed cataract which progressively affected both eyes. He was present at the laying of the foundation stone of the new chapel at the City of London Asylum on June 18th last, and was then contemplating an operation; this, however, he had not undergone