

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.

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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.]

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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.

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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