

PROFESSOR BIAGIO G. MIRAGLIA.

The following obituary notice of this well-known Italian alienist and phrenologist is derived from details supplied by his son:—He was born on August 21, 1814, at Coenza, in Calabria, where his father was a magistrate. In spite of delicate health, he early showed signs of literary and artistic ability. After completing his medical studies he began practice in a remote district of Calabria, but soon returned to Naples, where he was appointed on the staff of the Royal Asylum of Aversa. On becoming the director of this institution he devoted himself to its improvement in all respects. But his great energy sought for outlets in other directions, establishing the “*Società Frenopatica Italiana*,” and a literary and scientific society; and sharing the fate of Poerio and other political prisoners, in the latter days of the Bourbon rule. He published a large number of separate essays on various medico-psychological and medico-legal subjects; edited from 1860 to 1868 the “*Annali Frenopatici Italiani*,” which he established; and issued copious and detailed reports of the asylum at Aversa. But his favourite study was phrenology, which he embraced in early life; and his “*Trattato di Frenologia applicata alla medicina, alla giurisprudenza, &c.*,” published in 1853, contributed more probably than any Italian work to spread a knowledge of Gall’s system. His life was a striking example of devotion to his profession, and to science; he was as ardent a student at 70, when his career ceased, as at its commencement.

SANITARY GAS-MAKING.

We call the attention of Asylum Superintendents to an advertisement respecting a new gas-making process, which is said on good authority to be specially adapted to asylum gas works. One of our members, formerly the superintendent of a county asylum, has visited, with Mr. Spice, C.E., the Tunbridge Wells Gas Works, and he informs us that there is no smell whatever, and that flowers grow freely in the garden round the works. The “*Gas and Water Review*,” June 26th, 1885, contains a short article by Professor Wanklyn, to which we refer our readers interested in the subject of sanitary gas-making. His conclusion is that “all the nuisances which arise from gas works are avoidable, and that there is nothing in the operation of gas-making which necessarily entails the creation of nuisance. Gas works ought to be as cleanly as water works, and, indeed, ought to exert a distinctly sanitary influence.”

The process whereby this has been effected is the Cooper Coal-Liming Process, which in 1883 was introduced into the Tunbridge Wells Gas Works, and from that date Tunbridge Wells has enjoyed the advantage of pure gas and inoffensive gas works.

At the Annual Meeting of the Association of Municipal and Sanitary Engineers and Surveyors, June 25th, the process was discussed, and Mr. Spice said that he had had 40 years’ experience in gas manufacture and gas lighting, and that he had now become a staunch advocate of the process of manufacturing gas from limed coal. The saving to the consumer is enormous.