

Licenses for Male Attendants.

The governors of the York Lunatic Asylum have raised the question of their liability to pay taxes for male attendants. The result of their contest with the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue is shown in the following letter to Dr. Needham, which is of importance to all public asylums:—

Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London, W.C.,
27th July, 1870.

SIR,—In reply to your communication of the 2nd inst., in the matter of the license duties of the York Lunatic Asylum, I am instructed by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to inform you that, upon a recent reconsideration of the whole question relating to the servants of such asylums, they continue of opinion that the attendants are in point of law servants for whom licenses are required. Under all the circumstances, however, they have adopted the following special regulation, viz. :—

1st. To require licenses for all chargeable servants employed by the keepers of private asylums, including the attendants who perform such duties for the patients as would be performed by a footman or valet de chambre.

2nd. To require licenses from county or other public asylums for house porters, or gardeners, or other chargeable servants (except the attendants who wait upon the patients).

The collector has, therefore, been instructed to make such repayments to the York Asylum as will be admissible under this regulation. House stewards, gardeners, and horses remain chargeable.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. M. ROSETTI,

Assistant Secretary.

Pauper Lunatics.

The subjoined circular letter, prescribing certain additional duties to be performed by medical officers of workhouses, has been issued by the Poor-law Board:—

[COPY.]

Poor-law Board, Whitehall,

1st August, 1870.

SIR,—I am directed by the Poor-law Board to inform you that they have received from the Commissioners in Lunacy a suggestion that the

persons of all pauper lunatics should, upon their admission into the workhouse, and upon their departure from it, be carefully examined by the Medical Officer.

As the Board are most anxious that every available protection should be afforded to this unfortunate class, they concur in the suggestion of the Commissioners in Lunacy, and request the guardians at once to give the necessary directions for insuring such examination, and for preserving a record of it in each case.

I am, sir,

(Signed) Your obedient servant,
H. FLEMING,
Secretary.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

On some occasions when patients have died shortly after admission into asylums, and have exhibited marks of violence; there have been disputes as to whether the injuries were inflicted in the workhouse before the patient was sent to the asylum, or in the asylum. It will be to the interest of medical officers of workhouses, therefore, to carry out carefully and systematically the recommendations contained in the foregoing circular.

PART II.—REVIEWS.

1. *Twenty-fourth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor.* 1870.
2. *Twelfth Annual Report of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland.* 1870.

THE number of persons in Great Britain registered as insane is now 62,023. Of these 54,713 are English and 7,310 Scotch. Ten years ago the numbers were 39,647 and 6,251, or 45,898 in all. An increase of 16,125 lunatics in ten years in this country is a most noteworthy fact. It has hitherto received no thoroughly satisfactory explanation. We can conceive of no question the solution of which would be more interesting medically, socially, and economically. It is to be earnestly hoped that the Commissioners in Lunacy will soon