

on these payments. We think, however, that this estimate is far too high. Half the amount is a more probable average, and this would need the tax to be 5 per cent. on the receipts.

As Mr. Conolly proposes that all the additional duties to be imposed on the Commissioners should be discharged by them as at present, acting in pairs, one of whom shall be a barrister and one a medical man, and as "the union of the medical and legal element has worked so well in all the proceedings of the Commissioners," the additional members of the commission must be half barristers and half medical men.

The above constitute all the changes which the author proposes to be made in the existing lunacy law—at least for the present. We are not disposed to criticise his suggestions, but one great objection to them as a reply to the recent popular outcry is obvious, namely, that the changes proposed apply almost exclusively to the provinces, whereas two out of three of the recent inquisitions, which have impressed the public with the idea that the inmates of private asylums contain no small proportion of persons who are unjustifiably detained, occurred in the metropolitan district.

As for the author's recommendation that every patient placed in a private asylum shall be "immediately," or "within seven days," visited and examined by two Commissioners in Lunacy, it would be simply impracticable, notwithstanding the addition of six new Commissioners to the Board. During the year 1857 the Commissioners report that 2,324 patients were admitted into private lunatic asylums, of whom 1,253 were admitted into private asylums in the provincial districts. These numbers would provide each of the six pairs of Visiting Commissioners with 387 special visitations and examinations, and this in addition to all the ordinary work of the Commission.

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OBITUARY.—DR. HEDGER, late Assistant Medical Officer to the Colney Hatch Asylum, died on the 25th ult., at Torquay.

APPOINTMENTS.—MR. HARGOOD to be Assistant Medical Officer to the Colney Hatch Asylum.

DR. J. STRANGE 'BIGGS to be Assistant Medical Officer to the Surrey County Asylum.