

of a kindly heart, and more likely to be a good ruler than his successor, who only cared for himself. It is reported in the newspaper that he has now recovered, but as he is still in a species of confinement, this cannot be exactly known.

Paralysis Treated by Electricity.—Dr. C. Eisenlohr ("Archiv," vi. Band, 2 Heft) has used the induced current very successfully in the treatment of partial paralysis, especially in the leg, following upon typhus fever. From the limited nature of the paralysis, and the unequal excitability to electricity in the affected limbs, he considers that the loss of power is in these cases owing to an exudation in the neurilemma of the branches of the sciatic nerve, accompanying a serous effusion into the cavities of the joints.

Beer Used Against Sleeplessness.—Dr. Wittich ("Archiv," vi. Band, 2 Heft), gives the results of his experiments in treating restless lunatics of the male sex. The remedies that he especially recommends are bromide of potassium and beer. He has been in the habit of giving the latter beverage in doses of one to two litres, and the results were highly satisfactory. Though Dr. Wittich did not venture to give beer in cases of acute mania, he found it very successful in fifteen cases of sleeplessness. As the Germans have shown a decided taste for that liquor when sane, it is not likely that there will be any difficulty in administering it to their lunatics, and it is even possible that some stickler for the equality of the sexes may yet enquire why such a pleasing method of cure is not extended to female patients.

PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

DEPUTATION TO THE LORD ADVOCATE IN REGARD TO THE LUNACY LAW.

On Friday, 2nd November, a deputation of asylum superintendents, members of district boards, and managers of Royal Asylums, waited on the Lord Advocate at his chambers, Edinburgh, with the view of bringing under the notice of his Lordship an omission in the Scotch lunacy law, there being no provisions at present for granting pensions to old and deserving officers in the Scotch district and parochial asylums, as in England and Ireland. The deputation consisted of Professor Balfour, Professor Maclagan, Dr. Fraser, ex-Bailie Miller, Mr. D. Scott Moncrieff, W.S., Mr. Cowan, of Beeslack, Dr. Cameron, Lochgilhead; Dr. Jamieson, Aberdeen; Dr. Anderson, Rosewell; Dr. Grierson, Melrose; Dr. Wallace, Greenock; Dr. Mackintosh, Murthly; Dr. Rutherford, Lenzie; Dr. Ireland, Larbert; Dr. Clouston, Morningside; Dr. Rorie, Dundee; Dr. Howden, Montrose, &c. The deputation were introduced by Professor Maclagan, who strongly supported the views of the deputation. Dr. Mackintosh, addressing his Lordship, said—The reasons which have caused the medical and other officers of the public asylums of Scotland to come before you are, I think, fairly set forth in the petition which was placed in your Lordship's hands some months ago. I need not, therefore, refer to them in detail, but would only draw your attention to the anomalous (and at the same time, disadvantageous) conditions in which such officials are placed when contrasted

with their brethren in England and Ireland. Most of us had hoped that the matter would, ere this, have been taken up by the General Board of Lunacy for Scotland, but the Board (who received a deputation last February in the most courteous manner) has no intention of moving in this or any other legislation at present. Moreover, the Commissioners thought that the best course was that now adopted—viz., to bring the subject before you ourselves. The service which we have the honour to represent is as much a public service as the army and navy, or as the civil and parochial services, and perhaps it is not exceeded by any of them in the increasing attention which is necessary, or by the harassing nature of the duties. It therefore seems the more reasonable (besides being a simple act of justice) to place the service on a footing in regard to superannuation allowances similar to that occupied by the public asylums of England and Ireland. In urging upon your Lordship the great need for as speedy a solution of the question as possible, we do so in the knowledge that several special amendments of a similar nature have been made. Moreover, we are satisfied that the insertion of such a clause as that indicated in the petition as an amendment into the Act, will be an important day in the history of such institutions, both as regards the efficiency and stability of the staff, and the comfort of the inmates. Mr. Cowan, of Beeslack, as a member of a district lunacy board, also urged the injustice and impolicy of the present law. The Lord Advocate said that he would give the subject his most favourable consideration. It seemed a very proper matter to have been brought before him, the only question being when he could get an opportunity of introducing a clause to remedy the present defect.

INDIAN HEMP THE CAUSE OF 30 PER CENT. OF THE INSANITY OF BENGAL.

The following is an abstract of news from the "Calcutta Gazette:"—"The Lieutenant-Governor is anxious to make it understood that, though very desirous to increase the revenue, he does not wish to increase consumption. From figures given, it appears that the revenue has increased in 1876-77 to 255,766 rupees. Some of these sources of revenue are decoctions of hemp, one of the most deleterious of which is gunga. An unconscious and painful comment on the iniquity of seeking revenue out of the sale of these pernicious poisons is contained in the fact as stated in the annual report on lunatic asylums in Bengal, resolutions on which were published in the same "Gazette." From this it appears that among the causes of insanity excess in the use of gunga has accounted for 30.66 per cent. of the total number of lunatics.

DR. MACKENZIE BACON.

At a congregation of the University of Cambridge, on November 1st, the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Dr. George Mackenzie Bacon, the resident medical superintendent of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Lunatic Asylum. In the course of an eloquent Latin speech, the Public Orator, after referring to the fact that in the ancient world Athens alone set up in her market place an altar to the Goddess of Pity, and that even Athens knew of no hospitals, noticed the vast improvement that even recent times had witnessed in the treatment of pauper lunatics. Referring to Dr. Bacon, he drew attention to the valuable services he had gratuitously rendered for the last nine years to the medical students of the University, by affording them facilities for clinical instruction in diseases of the brain, concluding as follows: