

necessary to express an opinion: that it is very natural in one who is learning a subject to overestimate what he has acquired, and to underestimate what others know, every one will readily allow. Doubtless, as he has not forbore to criticise other men and their works, Dr. Barclay will not object to what we aver to be honest, and hope to be competent, criticism of himself and his work. In a few words, then, we sum up our opinion of his book: so much quiet pretension with such a, we will not say schoolboy-like, but defective treatment of a great subject, seems to us to present a striking example, if not of a "medical error," certainly of a "fallacy" in a man's estimation of his own capacities and attainments. It is a disgrace to medical criticism that such a work should have escaped exposure.

PART III.—QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.

The first part of this Quarterly Report on FOREIGN PSYCHOLOGICAL LITERATURE is omitted, owing, we regret to say, to the indisposition of Dr. Arlidge.

We have every reason to believe that Dr. Arlidge will be enabled to resume in our next number (July) his Report on Foreign Psychological Literature. The subject of his next Report will be Recent French Psychology.

The Report on ENGLISH PSYCHOLOGICAL LITERATURE is likewise omitted, owing to the continued press of other matter.

PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

Circular by the Commissioners in Lunacy.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY,
19, WHITEHALL PLACE; 9th March, 1865.

SIR,—I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy to request that in future, in the case of any notice of death from which it appears that no person was present at the time of death, there

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should also be stated the circumstances under which the patient died unattended, and also whether any inquest was held in the case.

The Commissioners are strongly of opinion that, where a patient is seriously ill, or death is apprehended, some person should be in attendance all night.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. C. SPRING RICE, *Secretary.*

Dr. _____

University of London ; Examination in Mental Diseases for the Second M.B. Pass.

At a meeting of the medical sub-committee of the Annual Committee of Convocation, session 1864-5, held on the 3rd of February, present—Dr. Storrar, in the chair ; Dr. Anstie, Mr. E. Charles, LL.B., Dr. Maudsley, Dr. Randall, Mr. J. Robson, B.A., Dr. Sibson, Dr. Maudsley read the following *Report upon the subject of Mental Diseases* :—

Whilst every department of medical science has of late years received great extension, and whilst medical studies have in consequence been made wider and more complete, there is still, strange to say, no instruction whatever given at any of our London medical schools on the subject of Mental Diseases, and no adequate knowledge of them, if any, exacted by any of our examining bodies. As long ago as 1831 Dr. Conolly, who was at that time Professor of Medicine in what was then called the London University (now University College), attempted to effect arrangements for giving instruction in mental diseases, and for gaining access on the part of medical students to the wards of the London asylums ; but, as Dr. Conolly observes, “ in that busy period of agitation and movement more important matters occupied the attention of the distinguished founders of the University, and I could not obtain attention to this suggestion. And even now,” he continues, writing in 1862, “ when thirty years more have passed away, and every department of medical study has received new and great impulses, the only branch of pathological instruction which it is not thought necessary to illustrate by examples seen in hospital practice, is still the department of Mental Pathology, including all the varied symptoms of the mutual influence of the body on the mind, and of the mind on the body, and the means of their alleviation and cure.” This entire neglect still continues, although since Dr. Conolly made his unsuccessful attempt a complete revolution in the manner of treating the insane has been effected by his distinguished exertions, and although great activity now prevails in the scientific investigation of mental