

construction, and there is also a danger in proposing changes which will not work out in practical detail. When an Asylum Committee decide to build they should forthwith appoint the Medical Superintendent, and when the plans are complete these should be submitted to the scrutiny of experts.

We understand that Mr. Sydney Mitchell, who designed Craig House for the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, the separate hospital for the Royal Asylum at Montrose and other similar institutions, has been appointed to act as sole assessor in selecting the designs to be premiated for the new Belfast Asylum. Mr. Hine, who designed notable additions to the Nottingham Borough and the Dorset County Asylums, as well as the vast buildings at Claybury and the new asylum at Bexley Heath, for the London County Council, was similarly associated with Mr. Mitchell in regard to the new Dublin Asylum at Portrane. These gentlemen are to be congratulated on having attained this eminence in their profession, and there is every reason to believe that Ireland will benefit from their mature and prudent counsels.

WORDS OF FAREWELL

By the Rev. H. Hawkins.

"Allow me to say 'Good-bye,' that is God be with you before you go. It is an old saying—'Welcome the coming, speed the parting guest.' We should consider ourselves rather as members of a large family than parts of a vast living machine, and should take interest, as far as we can, in one another's movements and well being. So let us exchange a parting friendly farewell. After service here, longer or shorter, you are going to leave this asylum, its work, its patients and companionships. You will not forget them. You will sometimes have in kindly remembrance your old wards, with many of their inmates; your former fellow, workers, and others with whom you have been associated—the medical staff, matrons (may I hope the Chaplain?) and others. Do not let the asylum and its inmates when (as soon they will be) out of sight be altogether out of mind. Your sojourn here is a part of yourself—the various stages of life are 'bound each to each.' But do not merely give a thought, now and then, to this large household, but consider whether you cannot *still* do it good, just a little. May I suggest one or two ways in which this might be done?

"1. Might not an attendant, before leaving, select some patient in her ward whom she might, as it were, 'adopt?'—writing to her from time to time, not frequently, but regularly, sending her an occasional newspaper or an almanack, or perhaps a few stamps. Would not this be a pleasant bond of union between the new life and the old? between now and then? If the 'adopted' patient should be discharged or die, her place might be taken by another. The Head Attendant or 'Charge' might be willing kindly to forward a name. If this could not be easily managed, a paper (illustrated all the better) addressed to the old *ward* would, perhaps, reach some patient whose thoughts might be diverted, for awhile, from cares and troubles through your considerateness. Anyhow, in some way or other, keep the asylum and its indwellers in remembrance. Forget not the community in which your lot was once cast when you make your requests before God. The 'afflicted in *mind*,' as well as those in body and estate, are not unremembered in the Church's petitions, and, for private use, a form of prayer which has been put into the hands of very many, and which not a few may be using, will be found at the end of this letter.

"2. Again, as far as you can with truth, *speaking favourably* of the asylum and its management. No institution is perfect, no workers are faultless. You may have become acquainted with some things in the asylum which you are about to leave which are capable of amendment. There, as elsewhere, occur occasional faults of temper, hastiness of speech, want of gentleness, &c. Where is there *not* something to be desired? The members of any establishment are part of the great human family, liable to errors and defects which are common to all. But you have also had experience of the manner in which the well-being of the inmates of the

House—patients and staff—has been carefully attended to. You have noticed many instances of much patience shown under provocation, of kindly words and actions, of trouble cheerfully taken, of money freely spent for the benefit and comfort of all around; so, when you have opportunity, say a good word for the institution. Kindly mention, may help to correct mistaken opinions held by many persons about asylum ways. Prejudice may be removed, or lessened. The unwillingness of friends to send patients, needing such treatment, to an asylum, may be diminished in some case, through your recommendation, which will have weight, coming from one who speaks from personal experience.

“3. Should you know of any young person in search of employment, who would be likely to become a good attendant, you might confer a benefit both upon herself and others by putting her in the way of applying for service, with particulars about age, health, previous occupation, &c. Moreover, you might give her some friendly advice which would be useful if she became a nurse.

“And now, accept good wishes on leaving for your future life, Whether you are going to be married, or to take service elsewhere, or to return awhile to your old home, may God’s blessing be with you in the years to come, and hereafter.”

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM DR. LOCKHART ROBERTSON.

In looking through the report of the Annual Meeting in the Journal, I note the report of the Hack Tuke Committee. May I, as a subscriber and old friend of Dr. Hack Tuke’s, venture to say that I have a strong impression that we are already overdone with Prize Essays, which are usually rubbish; and may I also suggest that we follow the example of the College of Physicians in the Moxon Medal, which is given by the College at fixed intervals as a gold medal on the recommendation of the Council to the most distinguished psychologist, English or foreign, by or for good work done by juniors. Dr. Tuke’s head would look well on a gold medal. We might, perhaps, be able to give it every fifth year in gold, or in silver yearly, which I think would be better. The Moxon fund is £435, and yields at 2½ per cent. 10 guineas. We should only have five guineas yearly, which would give a gold medal probably every third year, a silver one every year.

RESIGNATION.

Dr. Carlos F. Macdonald.

Many of our members, who know Dr. Carlos F. Macdonald, as President of the New York State Lunacy Commission, will congratulate him on the honourable recognition of his services which has been manifested on his retirement, and wish him equal honour and success in any new field of activity that he may enter on. Dr. Wise, of Ogdensburg, has been appointed as his successor.

OBITUARY.

SIR BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON.

Sir Benjamin Richardson was elected an Honorary Member of the Medico-Psychological Association more than a quarter of a century ago, and repeatedly enriched the pages of this Journal with contributions from his active and powerful pen. In the wide range of his interests and investigations he could not fail to include such subjects as lie nearest to our special work. In 1869 he read a paper at the York Meeting on “Physical Disease from Nervous Strain,” and so lately as