

These four and the one mentioned in my letter to the Solicitor to the Treasury, are the cases of patients who avowed their intention to commit suicide, and succeeded in accomplishing that object; those who entertained a like feeling and expressed it, but were protected against themselves by the unceasing watchful care of the attendants, constitute a very large number. One of these, an aged man, died lately, who for ten years consecutively persisted in making attempts upon his life, all of which were frustrated.

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Maudsley, M.D.

W. C. BEGLEY.

Retreat for the Insane, Hartford,  
Connecticut, U. S. A., January 15, 1872.

SIR,—Your note informing me that I had been unanimously elected Honorary Member of the Association was received with grateful emotion. I know of no section of our profession which, during the present century, has accomplished more for science and humanity than this Association. Its honours, therefore, are, in my estimation, the highest honours of the profession.

I remain,

With great respect and esteem,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. BUTLER, M.D.

Harrington Tuke, M.D., Hon. Secretary,  
Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain.

#### *Books Received.*

1. The Science and Practice of Medicine. By William Aitken, M.D., Professor of Pathology in the Army Medical School. Sixth Edition. (*See Part II., Reviews.*)
2. Treatise on the Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity. By Isaac Ray, M.D. Fifth Edition. (*See Part II., Reviews.*)
3. Theologisches Literaturblatt, in Verbindung mit der Katholisch-theologischen Facultät zu Bonn, herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. F. H. Neusch. Bonn, 15th January, 1872.

(The number of this Journal with which we have been favoured contains a full and critical review of Dr. Maudsley's "Body and Mind" by Dr. F. A. Hartsen, who says of it—"Die Haupttendenz des vorliegenden Buch ist also eine durchgehende Verherrlichung des Materialismus." We could not, of course, expect a critic in a theological journal to agree with the spirit of the book, but we cannot complain of the tone of his remarks, or of the thoroughness with which he has done his work. Our German friends carry their patient industry and thoroughness into their reviews.)

4. The Power above Matter: an Address read before the Hunterian Society, on the 11th of October, 1871. By Dennis de Berdt Hovell, President of the Society. Churchill. 1871.

(It is the author's object to show that we cannot accept materialism as a finality: that is to say, as the cause of the qualities which appertain to matter; but that there also are immaterial causes which act upon matter, and that materialism, as a finality, involves us in imperfect conclusions, or some inconsistent absurdity. He maintains that the compounds of protoplasm do not exhibit the phenomena of life, when brought together under any circumstances, unless they are endued with the principle of vitality. There are immaterial agencies distinct from material conditions. Our faculties, whether of body, mind, or feeling, are not the *result* of molecular changes:

we must not confuse the principle of action with the machinery by which it works. There is a palpable distinction between will and volition: the will to do a thing is quite distinct from the volition necessary to carry it into execution.

5. *Spiritualism Answered by Science.* By Edward W. Cox, S.L., F.R.G.S. Longman and Co. 1871.

(It has been erroneously supposed that Mr. Serjeant Cox was converted, by the results of Mr. Crooke's so-called scientific observation of Mr. Home, to the creed of Spiritualism. All he was really convinced of was of the existence of "an entity, distinct from the corporeal structure, which can exercise an active force, directed by intelligence, beyond the limit of the bodily power, and which is not material, but something other than the scarpel carves and the microscope reveals." The object of this short treatise is to state fully and frankly the facts and arguments that have convinced him that there is such a force, by the recognition of which he thinks that Science may yet be enabled to restore the faith Science has shaken in the existence of the soul and the consequent prospect of immortality.)

6. *Darwinism refuted by Researches in Psychology.* By Antoine G. Carlier, French Master at King Edward VI's School, Norwich. London: Jarrold & Sons.

("Materialists, already so numerous," says the author, "forgetting purposely that Mr. Darwin names the Eternal at every page, have used his theories as an arm against any belief in an intellectual principle, that is God." He has therefore set himself to work to demonstrate the necessary existence of an intelligent principle—the existence of the soul, independent of matter, having qualities which are not "*poetical twaddle*," as it pleases the materialists to call them. He is far from attributing to Mr. Darwin any intention of materialism, but he cannot but deplore the evil influence which his book has exercised on certain minds. If Darwin's view of evolution be true, "matter must have had in itself this principle of development, and therefore matter would be God, and consequently the soul would be material; but the soul is intellectual, and no one can deny that matter is un-intellectual, and without preconceived will, as the stone which falls; therefore the soul is immaterial." But what becomes of this clever feat of reasoning if the materialist obstinately affirms, as he does affirm, that matter in its highly complex condition of nerve element is not un-intellectual, but actually does think? If M. Carlier were a member of Parliament, "I would," he says, "propose a bill to this effect, that no person should be permitted to fulfil any public office unless he took an oath of his belief in the existence of a God." We would suggest that a better bill for him to propose, when he gets into Parliament, will be a bill to enact that man shall "swear not at all"—a bill, in fact, to abolish swearing as *contra bonos mores*, and of evil example to materialists. While recognizing the goodness of M. Carlier's intention, and the earnestness of his convictions, we fear that his pamphlet will be considered, even by those who think with him, as an instance of zeal outrunning discretion. He evinces an ignorance of, or a signal inability to comprehend, the scientific facts and arguments against which he declaims, and he proves that a zealous faith in the truths of religion does not suffice to inspire the charity which thinketh no evil of those who do not think with him. Addressing the unfortunate materialists, he asks, "What would happen if you were the most numerous? Eh! Ask me what the jackals do when they are the strongest." They are excellent scavengers, we believe, in the countries in which they exist, and it has sometimes occurred to us, as much enduring reviewers, that it would be a good and excellent thing if there was a similar provision in the literary world for clearing away a great deal of matter that is only calculated to breed a pestilence of thought and feeling.)

7. The Life and Doctrines of Haller : An Anniversary Address before the King's County Medical Society. By R. Cresson Stiles, M.D., New York. 1867.

A Portion of the Annual Address before the New York Academy of Medicine, for 1870. By the same author.

(The first address we have read with some satisfaction, as it contains a tolerably interesting account of the life and labours of the distinguished man whose great name it commemorates ; but we have not been able to make much of the second address, perhaps because it is only the portion of an address. This note, however, may be of interest to those whom it concerns, or to their friends who have any interest in their property)—

“The physician who has had opportunities of becoming acquainted with the symptoms of insanity in its varied forms, cannot fail to recognise its indications in the written and spoken thoughts of many of his fellows on whom the world has not learnt to cast suspicion. The following selections are here brought forward as indications of mental aberration, and in proof of the correctness of the above position.

“ ‘The more we observe and study the wider we find the range of the automatic and instinctive principles in body, mind, and morals, and the narrower the limits of the self-determining conscious movement.’—*Holmes*.

“ ‘Matter and law have devoured spirit and spontaneity.’—*Huxley*.

“ ‘Physiologically we cannot choose but reject *the* will ; volition we know, and will we know, but *the will* apart from particular acts of volition or will, we cannot know.’—*Maudsley*.

“ ‘Will it be believed that the Archbishop of York actually appeals to the instinct of the savage to rebuke the alleged atheism of science.’—*Maudsley*.

“ ‘If philosophers have suffered, their cause has been amply avenged. Extinguished theologians lie about the cradle of every science, as the strangled snakes beside that of Hercules.’—*Huxley*.

“Alas for Messrs. Holmes, Huxley, Maudsley, Tyndall, Herbert Spencer, Sir Joseph Hooker, Sir Charles Lyell, and the members of the fraternity throughout Christendom.”

8. On the Relation of Therapeutics to Modern Physiology. By Henry R. Madden, M.D. Ed.

(This is a reprint of an article which appeared in the “Homœopathic Review,” which we mentioned in our last number. We feel not a little surprise that the author, who has written so well of the condition and tendencies of modern physiology and of the relation of therapeutics thereto, should accept the so-called law of *similia similibus curantur* as a satisfactory solution of the therapeutical problem. That a drug invariably produces in the diseased organism a series of changes precisely opposite to those which it produces in health, and that consequently it removes from a diseased part the entire series of symptoms which it would excite in the same part when healthy, seems to us to be a proposition that is not well founded in experience or in philosophy, but is really a big and unfounded assumption, and, as such, likely to mischievously retard the advent of a true therapeutical science.)

9. The Present Condition of Political Liberalism in England. By W. Dyson Wood, Assistant Surgeon to the West Riding Prison at Wakefield, author of “Hamlet from a Psychological Point of View,” &c. Longmans & Co. 1872.

Social Politics. By W. Dyson Wood.

(We are not politicians, and if we were in the House of Commons we should probably have as much faith in the play going on there as has Mr. Disraeli, towards whom Mr. Wood seems, in a fit of repulsion to Mr. Gladstone, to

be gravitating; but we certainly should get very weary of keeping up a part in what Mr. Disraeli, we believe, considers the finest arena in Europe for gladiatorial display. A magnificent arena truly, but what of the elderly plutocrats who are the athletes?)

10. *On Mental Capacity in Relation to Insanity, Crime, and Modern Society.* By Christopher Smith, M.D. London: Baillière and Co.

(We cannot notice this singular production on the present occasion; all we can say is, it seems to us almost too bad to satirize a respectable physician, as the author does in his dedication to Dr. Forbes Winslow, whom he addresses as "prince of psychological science," "the involuntary objective in matters immediately connected with insanity," and when he adjures not to "bestow one mental vibration of your powerful sensorium that would imply censure!" What has Dr. Winslow done that he should thus be made a laughing-stock of?)

---

*Appointments.*

BENHAM, W. T., M.B., C.M., M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Assistant Resident Medical Superintendent of the Bristol Lunatic Asylum, Stapleton, vice S. H. Carter, M.D., L.R.C.S.Ed., resigned.

COURTENAY, E. M., M.B., C.M., has been appointed Clinical Assistant to the West Riding of Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum, Wakefield, vice J. Lowe, M.B., C.M., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Durham County Lunatic Asylum, Sedgefield.

DENNE, T. V. DE, L.R.C.P.Ed., M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the County Asylum, Rainhill, near Prescott, vice F. Stocks, M.R.C.S.E., resigned.

EDWARDS, J. E., M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the North Wales Counties Lunatic Asylum, Denbigh.

HOLLAND, J., F.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Lancashire Lunatic Asylum, Whittingham, near Preston.

KING, T. R., M.D., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Borough Lunatic Asylum, vice Thomas Lyle, M.B., C.M.

LEY, H. R., M.R.C.S.E., Superintendent of the Salop and Montgomery Counties Lunatic Asylum, has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Lancashire Lunatic Asylum, Prestwich, vice Holland.

LYLE, T., M.B., C.M., Assistant Medical Officer of the Borough Lunatic Asylum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Cheshire County Asylum, near Macclesfield, vice Dr. King, resigned.

MITCHELL, S., M.D., Medical Superintendent, and formerly Assistant Medical Officer at the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield, has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the South Yorkshire Asylum, Sheffield.

RUGG, B. A., L.R.C.P.L., M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Earlswood Asylum for Idiots, vice R. Hullah, M.R.C.S.E., resigned.

---

*Obituary.*

WILLIAM FRENCH MORRISON, M.A., F.R.C.P.Ed., Assistant Physician to the Fife and Kinross District Lunatic Asylum, on board the *Strathdon*, at Sydney, aged 27, on December 12th, 1871.

---

*Erratum.*

In page 622 of the January number, line 33, for 1851 read 1821.