1887.]

Reviews.

help for the man he had once regarded as an idol, and who was now so closely connected with him through his alliance with his daughter. Perhaps, however, Harriet and the child wanted the money quite as much, to say nothing of his own creditors. But these notions are too commonplace for genius.*

(To be continued.)

The Life and Work of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G. By EDWIN HODDER. Three Vols. Cassell and Company. London, Paris, New York, and Melbourne. 1887.

(Concluded from p. 289.)

To resume Lord Shaftesbury's Diary, we extract the following interesting reference to Cowper :---

August 20th. Have been reading "Life of Cowper." What a wonderful story! He was, when he attempted his life, thoroughly mad; he was never so at any other time. Yet his symptoms were such as would have been sufficient for any "mad doctor" to shut him up, and far too serious to permit any Commissioner to let him out, and, doubtless, both would be justifiable. The experiment proved that Cowper might safely be trusted; but an experiment it was, the responsibility of which not one man in three generations would consent, or ought, to incur. We should, however, take warning by his example, and not let people be in such a hurry to set down all delusions (especially religious delusions) as involving danger either

* A biographer of Shelley, certainly not wanting in appreciation and praise of Shelley, thus expresses himself:—" If a reunion of heart with Harriet was possible before, it now became impossible. Shelley fell helplessly in love with Mary; quitted Harriet; offered his heart-homage to Mary, &c., &c. . . . Poor Harriet, who had behaved well to Shelley according to her lights and opportunities, was much to be pitted, and as yet in no way pointedly to be blamed." "Harriet was a frank, kind, nice girl, and in all ways worthy of any ordinary man's love" ("Shelley's Poetical Works," pp. 15, 17, edited by Rossetti). But more than that, we have ample proof from Shelley's own statement that she was worthy of an extraordinary man's love also. Her fickle husband had addressed lines to Harriet in 1813, in the dedication to "Queen Mab," which speak for themselves.

Beneath whose looks did my surviving soul Riper in trouble and virtuous daring grow?

Harriet 1 on thine ; thou wert my purer mind ; Thou wert the inspiration of my song. * * * *

Then press into thy breast this pledge of love; And know, tho' time may change and years may roll, Each floweret gathered in my heart It consecrates to thine.

Reviews.

[Oct.,

to a man's self or to the public. There are, I suspect, not a few persons confined whom it would be just as perplexing, and yet just as safe, to release as the poet Cowper.

Mention is made of the attention paid by Lord Ashley in 1847 to the case of a lady who had been shut up in a lunatic asylum whom the Commissioners regarded as perfectly sane, and who was, in consequence, set at liberty. This lady was, it is stated, a victim of a cruel conspiracy. Again, a lady who was satisfied that a friend of hers had, under the same circumstances, been carried away to an asylum fifty miles from London, called on the Earl and told him her suspicions :--

It was evening when she arrived in Grosvenor Square, and dinner was on the table, but within a quarter of an hour Lord Shaftesbury was on his way to the railway station to go down to the asylum and investigate the matter for himself. He did so, and on the following day the young lady was released, it having been authoritatively ascertained that she was not in a state to render it necessary for her to be an inmate of an asylum. (Vol. ii., p. 230.)

Lord Ashley's promptness and alacrity in the visitation of asylums at other than the period of official inspection are shown in the following entry:—

May 15th, 1849. Made a night visitation to Hoxton Lunatic Asylum, having suspicions of misconduct; found, I rejoice to say, things far better than we expected; our system, therefore, of inspection may be considered successful, and our terrors salutary. Ventilation of apartments very bad.

In the year 1851, Christmas Day, very shortly before he became the Earl of Shaftesbury, he made the following review of what he had been able to effect :---

Seventeen years of labour and anxiety obtained the Lunacy Bill of 1845, and five years of increased labour since that time have carried it into operation. It has effected, I know, prodigious relief, has forced the construction of many public asylums, and greatly multiplied inspection and care. Much, alas! remains to be done, and much will remain; and that much will, in the estimation of the public, who know little, and inquire less, overwhelm the good, the mighty good, that has been the fruit.

The next record of Lord Shaftesbury's labours in lunacy legislation has reference to the proper provision for criminal lunatics. He had in 1852 brought the subject under the notice of the House of Lords, and had urged the necessity of the establishment of a State Asylum, in which they could be separated from the insane who had not been convicted of

1887.]

Reviews.

crime. His attempt at that time fell to the ground in consequence of the want of support he received from Lord Derby; and it was not till eight years afterwards (1860) that an Act was passed making special provision for this class, the result of which was the establishment of the Broadmoor State Asylum for Criminal Lunatics.

Reference is made to the attempt to establish, in 1861, a benevolent asylum for the insane for the middle classes. As is well known, the enthusiastic meeting held in the Freemasons' Hall, with Lord Shaftesbury in the chair, ended in nothing but the subscription of $\pounds760$, which, doubtless, was afterwards returned to the donors. It so happened, however, that the notorious vendor of pills and ointments, Mr. Holloway, was present at the meeting, and was so impressed with the statement of the need for such an institution as that advocated by Lord Shaftesbury that within a few weeks of the meeting he had an interview with the Earl, and expressed his willingness to expend a very large sum of money upon a building for the above purpose. It appears that Lord Shaftesbury advised him to divide his munificent gift in more than one object, the result being that Mr. Holloway eventually expended £300,000 upon the Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water, and £450,000 upon the Ladies' College at Egham. We have heard Lord Shaftesbury express his deep regret that the donor did not amply endow the Institution for the Insane for the Middle Classes; and with the information supplied in this biography, showing the influence exerted by the Earl, we are surprised that he did not bring about that which he regarded as so great a desideratum. The result is that, with all its advantages, this institution only partially meets the object which the benevolent gentlemen who met at the Freemasons' Tavern, 19 April, 1861, had in view.

In 1862 the "Act to amend the Law relating to Lunatics" which Lord Shaftesbury brought forward was passed. Among other clauses it was provided that there should be an increased visitation, a greater protection of single patients, and increased safeguards against the improper confinement of alleged lunatics. In his speech Lord Shaftesbury related that on one occasion he was sitting on the Commission as Chairman when the insanity of a lady was being discussed. His view was opposed to that of his colleagues. A medical man, who was present to give evidence in support of her lunacy, came up to Lord Shaftesbury and said, "Are you aware, my lord, that she subscribes to the Society for the Conversion of the Jews?"

"Indeed !" replied his lordship; " and are you aware that I am *President* of that Society?"

We next come to Mr. Dillwyn's motion for the "Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Lunacy Law so far as regards the security afforded by it against violation of personal liberty." This was on the 12th February, 1877, and it was duly appointed. We must quote the entries made by Lord Shaftesbury in his diary in reference to it.

February 13th, 1877. Mr. Dillwyn has obtained a Committee of Inquiry into the operation of the Lunacy Laws. As in 1859, and so now, I shall be summoned as Chairman to give evidence.

March 11 . . . My hour of trial is near; cannot, I should think, be delayed beyond the coming week. Half-a-century, all but one year, has been devoted to this cause of the lunatics; and through the wonderful mercy and power of God, their state now, as compared with their state *then*, would baffle, if description were attempted, any voice and any pen that were ever employed in spoken or written eloquence. *N'on nobis Domine*.

It is clear that Lord Shaftesbury was very nervous as to giving his evidence, and not a little anxiety was certainly depicted on his countenance as he paced the corridor in attendance for his examination; but those who heard him can bear witness to his nerve, instead of his nervousness, and to the proof which he gave of his thorough familiarity with the subject. It is observed by his biographer "that the worn look of Sir John Millais' portrait of him, painted about this time, sufficiently attests the state of his nerves," and the newspaper which he had once ironically called "my friend," made the observation : "These lines in the face of the Philanthropist would be painful were they not pathetic."

Lord Shaftesbury made the following entry under date July 22 :--

Sunday . . . Appeared again on Tuesday, 17th, before the Committee. . . Beyond the circle of my own Commissioners and the lunatics that I visit, not a soul, in great or small life, not even my associates in my works of philanthropy, as the expression is, have any notion of the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.

Two events are fresh in the memory of our readers, namely, the motion made in the House of Lords by Lord Milltown for an inquiry into the administration of the Lunacy Laws, and the subsequent introduction of Lord Selborne's Lunacy Amendment Bills in 1885. Mr. Hodder observes—" Very pathetic are the outpourings of his heart as he contemplates the possibility

1887.]

Reviews.

of the labour, the toils, the anxiety, the prayers of more than fifty years, being in one moment brought to naught, and cries 'Cast me not off in the time of old age,' &c. He felt that God had manifestly blessed the efforts of this Commission; and it was a grievous disappointment to him when Lord Milltown's motion was carried." (Vol. iii., p. 504.)

Mr. Hodder states no more than the truth when he says: "From the moment when, in the midst of great bodily and mental suffering, Lord Shaftesbury was summoned to London to consider it, it was the source of almost constant anxiety. It involved a long correspondence with the Lord Chancellor." His disapproval of the Bill was, as we know, followed by his resignation of his office as Chairman of the Board.

The following entry in his Journal has reference to his feelings at this juncture :---

May 5th, 1885. My conclusions were—I could not go down to the Lords and sit through the passing of such a measure, and be thus a party to its enactment. I could not, while holding an office under the Chancellor, oppose him by speech and division. He offered me permission to do so, but he knew, as well as I did, the indecency of such a course.

In vain Lord Shaftesbury remonstrated with the Lord Chancellor, whose disregard of his advice "greatly embittered his last days." When the progress of the Bill was arrested, in consequence of political events, Lord Shaftesbury was prevailed upon to resume his office, to the great satisfaction of his colleagues in Whitehall Place.

Having now availed ourselves of all the references contained in these volumes to Lord Shaftesbury's work in Lunacy Reform, and not only reform, but the prevention of what he regarded, and what the Medico-Psychological Association regarded, as mischievously meddlesome legislation, we have only to express our admiration of his career in humane endeavours to mitigate human suffering in all directions, although it does' not fall within our province to go beyond the services rendered to the insane. On the occasion of his death we paid a tribute to his memory, and were we to expatiate further here upon his "record" we could do little more than repeat the observations we made in that article. It is to be hoped that some other nobleman will arise to supply his place, gifted with the same unselfish love of his fellows, the same perseverance in perfecting and sustaining the work upon which he entered, and the same judgment in limiting the extent of legislative interference to the action called for in the interests of the insane

Reviews.

[Oct.,

themselves as regards prompt treatment and the avoidance of unnecessary publicity.

For those who profess to reverence the memory of the Earl of Shaftesbury, the volumes before us, so full of entries revealing his inmost feelings, and so ably edited by Mr. Hodder, ought to possess the greatest interest, and we trust that the extracts which we have made will induce our readers to procure the work for themselves. We have been astonished to find how few among our friends, well acquainted as they are with the near relation in which Lord Shaftesbury stood to their daily occupation, and many, more or less, knowing him personally, have sufficient enthusiasm to induce them to read, still less to buy, this good man's biography.

Magnétisme et Hypnotisme ; exposé des phénomènes observés pendant le sommeil nerveux provoqué. Par Dr. A. CULLERRE. Avec 28 figures. Paris : Librairie, J. B. Baillière et fils, 19, Rue Hautefeuille. 1887.

M. Cullerre is known as a writer of works upon mental disorders: general paralysis; melancholia and stupor; alcoholism in relation to ideas of persecution; tuberculosis and heart diseases in the insane; cerebral localization, &c. The author, as would be expected, treats the whole question from the Braid standpoint. He gives a very complete and readable history of the fortunes of artificial somnambulism, the discovery from time to time of strange and unexpected phenomena, the misinterpretations of these facts, the ignorance on both sides, namely, the ignorance of the scientific explanation on the one hand and the ignorance the last is the most inexcusable. It has not died out yet. Progress is impossible in the presence of this refusal to acknowledge facts. The morbid dread of being imposed upon is a mania with a certain class of scientific exquisites.

But Dr. Cullerre's book is not merely a history. He discusses many of the questions which arise out of the phenomena witnessed in our own day in France, and offers judicious comments. An important section has reference to the dangers of hypnotism, which, like chloroform, may be perverted to vile ends.