

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:

"Ipse Hippocrates medicinæ pater discipulos suos jurejurando obstrinxisse dicitur, sese magistri sui filiis artem medicam nullâ acceptâ mercede esse tradituros, quanto autem præstantius est hunc Hippocratis discipulum nullo jurejurando devinctum sed suâ sponte motum, non jam in suorum præceptorum progeniem sed in alienæ Academiæ adolescentes tantum beneficium gratis contulisse. Tu vero qui alumnis nostris magis cum fructu medicæ artis magister sponte exhibisti honoris causâ artium magister nobis esto." Dr. Bacon was then admitted to the degree of M.A. in the usual manner.—*Brit. Med. Journal*, Nov. 10.

THE PROFITS OF LITERATURE.

Longfellow is independent in circumstances—probably worth 100,000 dols. to 200,000 dols.; but the greatest part of it has come through his wife, long since deceased, who was rich in her own right.

Emerson has not made from his remarkable little volumes over 20,000 dols. He has gained nearly as much more by lecturing; and yet, by excellent management, which one might not expect from the high idealist, and by a serene philosophy of a practical sort, he continues to live on his small property.

Bryant is often cited as an instance of a rich author. He is rich, but not by authorship. All the money he has directly earned by his pen, outside of his journal, would not exceed, in all probability, 25,000 dols., notwithstanding his estate is estimated at 500,000 dols.

Hawthorn was poor to his dying day, and might have suffered but for his appointment to the consulship at Liverpool by his friend, President Pierce.

Lowell was independent in circumstances—no thanks to his fine poetry and essays, however.

Whittier, like most thrifty New Englanders, owns his own house, and beneath its humble roof, it is said, he has subsisted—he is a bachelor, you know—on 500 dols. a year.

Holmes is well off by the practice of the medical profession, by marriage, and inheritance, albeit not by poems, lectures, novels, nor "Autocrats of the Breakfast Table." All that he has written has not brought him 25,000 dols.

J. G. Holland is frequently named as an author who has amassed wealth. His books have sold as largely as those of any American writer, and, whatever may be thought of his ability, he still has a vast constituency. He is not at all rich in the New York sense; he may be worth 200,000 dols., but most of this he has got by his partnership in the "Springfield Republican."

George William Curtis is dependent on his salary from the Harpers; so is Mr. William D. Howells dependent upon his editorship of the "Atlantic"; Brete Harte, T. B. Aldrich, James Parton, J. T. Trowbridge, R. H. Stoddard, and T. W. Higginson, mainly upon fugitive writing.—*Printer's Circular*.

Appointments.

BROOK, C., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., has been appointed an Honorary Surgeon to the Lincoln Lunatic Hospital, vice Broadbent, deceased.

CHEVALLIER, B., M.D., M.R.C.P.L., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Borough of Ipswich Lunatic asylum, vice Long, resigned.

JONES, D. J., M.B., C.M., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Somersetshire Lunatic Asylum, Wells, vice Adam, resigned.