

course of a most protracted and searching enquiry, nothing was disclosed that reflected unfavourably on the general management of the Asylum."

The members of the Medico-Psychological Association, and all who are interested in the welfare of the insane, and the management of our English County Asylums, will feel sincere pleasure in reading this report. The noble institution at Macclesfield, which has been so recently erected for the care of the insane in that part of the county of Cheshire, its Committee of Visitors, and its officers, and especially Dr. Deas, are to be congratulated on the result of this most searching inquiry into this painful matter. It was supposed to be a model, not only of architectural skill and arrangement, but of careful management; its Committee of Visitors had, in the most enlightened way, adopted the most modern ideas for the cure of the insane. Dr. Deas was known to be an able, benevolent, and hard-working superintendent, and those reports were most painful to the public mind. We only hope that their complete refutation will have as wide a publicity as they had. In the interests of the insane, and of relatives of the insane, the result of this investigation should be widely made known.

#### JOHN HOWARD AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY.

At a meeting of the Psychological Section of the British Medical Association held at King's College, August, 1873, Professor Guy called attention to the fact that John Howard was appointed High Sheriff of the County of Bedford exactly one hundred years ago (in 1773), and so obtained the opportunity of making those remarkable inquiries into the state of prisons, and the physical and moral condition of prisoners to which this country and the world in general are so deeply indebted. Dr. Guy also alluded to the controversies which had arisen as to the character of Howard and his treatment of his only son; and as, in his judgment, there is no biography extant which affords such full and trustworthy materials on which to found a psychological inquiry, he offered a prize of £10 to encourage and promote such inquiry.

The following letter addressed to the President of the Section and of the Association fully expressed Dr. Guy's views:—

26, Gordon Street, August 14, 1873.

MY DEAR DR. TUKE,—Before leaving town, I must write you a line about the proposal I made at King's College.

1.—I offer a prize of £10 to be expended on books at the option of the winner—for the best essay on *John Howard as a Psychological Study*.

2.—I think this prize should be awarded by the Association of which I am an Honorary Member, rather than by the Section to which the offer was made.

3.—I should like the judges to be (if they would take the trouble) yourself and the Editors of the Journal.

4.—The advertisement of the prize should be made during the current year, and the award take place before the meeting of the Association in 1874.

5.—The advertisement should state that the essay, besides presenting an analysis of the character of John Howard, and the circumstances, physical and moral, under which it developed itself, must treat of the relation of the conduct of Howard during the infancy, childhood, and early manhood of his son, to the son's lapse into the mad state in which he died.

6.—The prize not to be awarded to any essay which the judges may deem unworthy, though it were the best. But in the event of no sufficient essay being brought forward, the prize to be offered for the next year. One of my motives in offering this prize, you will understand to be the vindication of Howard's memory (if consistent with the truth) from certain charges respecting his son, and I offer it now because we are living in the centenary of his happy appointment as Sheriff of Bedford in 1773.

I return to town on the 26th August, after which date (if you have had time enough for deliberation), I shall be glad to hear from you.

Meanwhile, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

WILLIAM A. GUY.

Dr. Tuke.

P.S.—I would suggest that there should be no limitation as to the profession of competitors; and that the usual arrangements as to mottoes, &c., be announced.