

OMISSION.

In the report of the general meeting on the 18th May, in our July issue, omission was made of the reading of Dr. Outterson Wood's paper on the Association nurses at the commencement of the proceedings, by the special permission of the President.

CORRECTION.

THE LUNACY BOARD OF IRELAND.

We regret that in the notice in the July number of the reconstituted Board of Commissioners for the general control of asylums for the lunatic poor in Ireland the name of Dr. Edward Maziere Courtenay was omitted. A similar error occurred in the list published by our contemporary, *The Lancet*.

THE MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.

The subjects for discussion in relation to our specialty in the Section of Nervous and Mental Diseases were—Obsessions and Fixed Ideas, the Pathogenesis and Diagnosis of General Paralysis, the Pathology of the Nerve Cell, Hypnotism and Suggestion in relation to Legal Medicine and Mental Diseases, and the Operative Treatment of Diseases of the Brain.

The papers promised on these subjects were very numerous, and the list of authors included many of those best known to alienists. There were in addition many unclassified contributions.

Amongst the English-speaking contributors we notice the names of Drs. Althaus, Macewen, Alexander Robertson, B. Sachs, Shuttleworth, and J. F. Sutherland.

A VISIT TO A RUSSIAN LUNATIC ASYLUM.

By DR. SHUTTLEWORTH.

During the meeting of the International Congress of Medicine at Moscow a visit was paid by several English superintendents of asylums to the Préobragenskoie Hospital for the Insane in the suburbs of Moscow. This asylum, the most ancient in Russia, had its origin in a decree, in 1762, of the Emperor Peter III., ordaining distinct accommodation for insane patients, apart from their care in convents and monasteries, which had previously been in vogue. After several makeshift arrangements, the present site was secured in 1804, and thereon were erected buildings for eighty patients—forty of each sex. According to the fashion of those days, a cell was provided for each patient; isolation, camisoles, fetters, "iron bracelets," etc., being thought essential to "calm" these unfortunates in their maniacal outbreaks! At the period of the French invasion of Moscow, in 1812, the staff of the hospital fled, and the poor patients were left to their own resources, some taking refuge with their relatives and others never being heard of again. Subsequently, owing to increasing pressure, it was found necessary to enlarge the hospital, and large extensions were made in 1840, 1878, and 1889. In the last-named year the non-restraint system was adopted; and in one portion of the building "open doors" (on the Scotch plan) may be found, giving the patients free access from the wards to enclosed airing-grounds.

It will be seen, therefore, that the building, which stands in an airy, elevated situation to the north-east of Moscow, presents the characteristics.