

charge of his duties; he was bitten in a finger of the right hand by a violent patient, and though amputation has been resorted to, the wound has never healed, and has been attended with constant suffering. On the 30th of April last, therefore, Dr. Williams informed the visiting-magistrates that, acting on the advice of the eminent men whom he had consulted, he desired to retire from his office, in the hope that his health might be benefited by rest. The visiting magistrates, it is scarcely necessary to say, were much grieved by the communication, though they were compelled to admit the necessity of the step. They expressed a high appreciation of Dr. Williams's industry, skill, and patience; and they attributed to his unremitting attention and incessant watchfulness the leading position which the institution has attained, being, in fact, second to none in the estimation of the public authorities. The visiting-magistrates laid special stress on the labours of Dr. Williams in superintending what they properly described as the entire reorganization of the establishment, to carry out the more advanced views of the medical schools in the treatment of the insane; and they expressed in the most significant manner their desire that, should Dr. Williams cease to be the superintendent, he would accept the office of consulting-physician to the institution, that the visiting-magistrates might still have the benefit of his advice, without entailing great labour upon him."

Mr. Toller, medical superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, has been appointed to the charge of the Gloucester Asylum.

Dr. OLIVER was appointed to the Salop and Montgomery Asylum in 1845. In former years Dr. Oliver took an active part at the meetings of the Association. In 1857 he published in the 'Lancet' some observations which attracted much attention on the administration of opium in the treatment of mental disease.

Dr. Oliver, we are informed, is so seriously ill as to be quite unable to attend to business of any kind whatever.

[Since this notice was written, we regret to learn of the death, on the 26th of May, of Dr. Oliver. The superintendence of the asylum has been conferred on the assistant medical officer, Mr. Bayley.]

The late Dr. Luther V. Bell.

Dr. LUTHER BELL, late president of the Association of Superintendents of North American Institutions for the Insane, died in February, 1862, in the ranks of the Federal army. A discourse on his life and character was read to the American Association at their annual meeting in Providence, R. I., on the 10th of June, 1862, by Dr. Ray, an honorary member of our English Association.

Dr. Luther Bell was a leading member of the American Association, and during his travels in Europe in 1844 became acquainted with our English asylums of that date.

"In 1856," says Dr. Ray, "after a service of nearly twenty years, he retired from the McLean asylum, and thenceforth resided in the neighbouring town of Charlestown, under the shadow of Bunker Hill, where the first object that greeted his opening eyes in the morning light was the scene of his best labours, of his highest enjoyments, and of his deepest sorrows. Within the few previous years his home had been made desolate by the death of his wife and three children, one of them, his eldest son, then in college; and now the care of his four remaining children became the favorite object of his life. The state of his health, which had been weakened by repeated attacks of pneumonia and hæmoptysis, from which, more than once, his recovery was regarded as impossible, seemed to forbid any arduous exertions. Much of his time was given to consultations with other physicians, to attendance on trials as an expert, and much of it to politics."

The civil war now raging in America interrupted the quiet evening of his days; and Dr. Luther Bell, infirm in health, and with anxious domestic cares, was yet moved by the demon of war to go forth and aid President Lincoln's insane and hopeless attempt to force on the Southern Confederacy the mob rule of the North by aid of foreign hirelings and ex-attorney-generals.

Dr. Bell was appointed in June, 1861, surgeon to the 11th regiment of Massachusetts's Volunteers, and shared with that distinguished corps the glories of Bull's Run. He then accompanied the no less famous General Hooker to Maryland, and there, in February, 1862, he died of rheumatic fever and pericarditis. Dr. Bell managed during his few months of campaigning to imbibe the cruel thoughts which, alas! spring up in every civil war.

"Were I (he writes) at home, I would go resolutely for the present executive, as the highest duty, and for the support of those means and men that went most fully for a vigorous prosecution of this war, until, if necessary, South Carolina and a dozen more like her should be blotted from the map of the Union, as states, and, with the private estates within their borders, re-divided by the surveyor's chain and compass, and distributed to new settlers."

Fancy any sane man writing such wickedness. In the shades of the spirit-land Dr. Bell has long since learnt to judge wiser and gentler judgments.

We gladly turn from this part of Dr. Bell's history to view him as a superintendent of a hospital for the insane.

"In assuming this office," says Dr. Ray, "he aimed for the best and highest results which it was capable of affording. Never had any man higher notions of the worth and dignity of his calling, of

its power of exercising the noblest faculties, of its fitness for elevating and strengthening the character. He was not one of those who are contented with that respectable measure of success which ensures their continuance in office. He felt that the field of effort on which he had entered was ready, not only to yield the obvious and ordinary fruits that might be expected, but to reward the loftiest ambition and the most earnest purpose. To his view it was as broad as the immense range of medical and mental science can make it, and as inexhaustible as the wants of suffering humanity."

His continuous efforts were directed to render the asylum under his charge a pleasant, attractive home for his patients.

"Whatever," continues his biographer, "was calculated to produce a pleasing impression on the mind, to turn the thoughts from that morbid introspection in which the insane so much indulge, to maintain the normal tastes and aptitudes, to excite a healthy interest in the outward world, and bring into play emotions and thoughts that had been stifled by disease, he regarded as worthy of a place in a hospital for the insane. With the aid of generous benefactors, ready to heed his suggestions, he had the satisfaction of knowing, when he quitted the scene of his principal labours, that it was furnished with appliances of this nature to a degree altogether unequalled in this part of the country."

Appointments.

J. Bayley, M.R.C.S.E., has been elected Medical Superintendent of the Salop and Montgomery Lunatic Asylum, Bicton, near Shrewsbury, *vice* Oliver, M.R.C.P.L., deceased.

William Bone, M.D. Univ. St. And., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer for the Female Department of the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, Colney Hatch, *vice* Mr. John Vivian Faull, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond., resigned.

T. S. Clouston, M.D. Edin., Senior Medical Officer at the Royal Asylum, Morningside, Edinburgh, has been appointed Resident Physician and Superintendent to the Cumberland and Westmoreland Lunatic Asylum, Garlands, near Carlisle, *vice* W. P. Kirkman, appointed Medical Officer and Superintendent of the Kent County Lunatic Asylum, Barmingheath.

J. R. M'Lintock, M.B., has been appointed Resident Medical Assistant to Murray's Royal Institution for the Insane, Perth, *vice* W. Carmichael Macintosh, M.D., appointed Medical Superintendent of the Perth County Lunatic Asylum, Murthley.

E. Toller, M.R.C.S.E., Resident Medical Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, London, has been elected Medical Superintendent