

PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

LUNACY REGULATION AMENDMENT.—A BILL INTITULED AN ACT FOR AMENDING THE LUNACY REGULATION ACTS.

This is a Bill which, promoted by the Lord Chancellor, has already passed through its stages in the House of Lords. It will be observed that it gives the Lord Chancellor power to appoint a guardian of the person and property of a person of weak mind for a period of six months, and that it reduces the number of visits to Chancery lunatics in private houses by the visitors to two a year.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Lunacy Regulation Acts :

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as "The Amendment Act (Lunacy Regulation), 1871."

2. This Act shall be construed as one with the Lunacy Regulation Acts, 1853 and 1862, and unless there is something in the subject matter or context repugnant to such construction, the expression "the Lord Chancellor intrusted as aforesaid," and all other expressions having a special or defined meaning in the last-mentioned Acts, or either of them, shall have the same meaning in this Act.

3. The expression "person of weak mind," as used in this Act, shall be construed to mean any person whose mental capacity is so affected by sickness or any other temporary cause as to render him incapable of managing himself or his affairs.

4. Where, on a petition presented in a summary manner, it is established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor intrusted as aforesaid that any person is of weak mind, the Lord Chancellor intrusted as aforesaid may, in a summary way, and without directing any inquiry under a Commission of lunacy, by an order to be made in the matter of such person of weak mind, appoint a guardian of the person and property or of the person or property of such person of weak mind, and may invest the guardian so appointed with such powers over the person or property of such person of weak mind, and generally may make such orders as he may consider expedient for the purpose of rendering the property of such person or the income thereof available for his maintenance or benefit, or for carrying on his trade or business, or for the support, maintenance, or education of his family.

Provision may be made in any order under this section for all costs incidental to or consequential on the making of such order, and for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this section, the Lord Chancellor intrusted as aforesaid shall have all the powers conferred by the thirteenth section of the said Lunacy Regulation Act, 1862 ; and the Lord Chancellor may likewise for the like purpose from time to time exercise all or any of the powers of making general orders vested in him by the Lunacy Regulation Acts, 1853 and 1862.

Provided as follows :—

- (1.) Personal notice of the application for any order under this section shall be served on the person alleged to be of weak mind, and the hearing of the case of such person, and all proceedings in relation to or consequent on any order made shall be in private :
- (2.) No order made under this section shall be of any force beyond the period of six months from the date thereof, nor shall any such order be renewed more than once :

- (3.) Every such order shall contain a direction to the visitors to visit such person of weak mind at such times and in such manner as to the Lord Chancellor intrusted as aforesaid may seem fit and necessary, and to report on the case of such person at such times as the Lord Chancellor intrusted as aforesaid may direct :
- (4.) No sale shall be made of any real property of such person of weak mind, in pursuance of the powers of this section, nor shall any lease be granted of such property, in pursuance of the same powers, except agricultural leases, for a period not exceeding twenty-one years :
- (5.) Every guardian appointed under this section shall once at the least in every month file in such manner as may be directed by any special or general order of the Lord Chancellor an account of his receipts and expenditure as such guardian during the preceding month, and of the mode in which such receipts have been derived and expenditure incurred, together with a statement of the balance (if any) of funds remaining in his hands at the date of such account :
- (6.) Every such guardian shall pay over any balance found to be due from him on any account in the same manner as if he had been regularly appointed a receiver in a matter of lunacy or in such other manner as the Lord Chancellor may by special or general order direct.

5. Whereas by section twenty of the Lunacy Regulation Act, 1862, it is enacted that "every lunatic shall be personally visited and seen by one of the said visitors four times at least in every year, and such visits shall be so regulated as that the interval between successive visits to any such lunatic shall in no case exceed four months : Provided always, that lunatics who are resident in licensed houses, asylums, or registered hospitals shall not necessarily be visited by any of the said visitors more than once in the year, unless the Lord Chancellor intrusted as aforesaid shall otherwise direct ;" and it is expedient that such visits should be permitted to be made at longer intervals than are required by the said enactment : Be it enacted, that the said section shall be construed as if the word "twice" had been inserted therein instead of the words "four times," and as if the words "eight months" had been inserted therein instead of the words "four months."

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION AT MANCHESTER.

A quarterly meeting, for scientific discussion, of this Association was held in the Board-room of the Royal Infirmary at Manchester, on Thursday morning, April 27th. Dr. Hitchman presided, and there were present—Dr. Lockhart Robertson, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Henson, Dr. Batty Tuke, Dr. Deas, Dr. Eastwood, Professor Inglis, Dr. Braddon, Dr. Noble, Dr. W. Roberts, Dr. Eason Wilkinson, Mr. G. Southam, Mr. E. Lund, Mr. Aldridge, Mr. S. Bradley, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Mellor.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, expressed his regret at the absence of the President (Dr. Boyd), and of the President elect (Dr. Maudsley), and then called on the Secretary (Dr. Batty Tuke) to read the minutes of previous meetings, which were approved.

PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

Dr. BATTY TUKE exhibited the calvarium of an insane patient who had been under his care. Jane M., æt. 36, transferred from a private asylum 9th August, 1866. No history ; deeply demented, with occasional paroxysms of excitement and restlessness. Bodily health, fair ; suffers from amenorrhœa. Three months after admission became persistently maniacal. In January she was much exhausted, and debilitated from the excitement, refusing food and requiring artificial feeding. Six months after admission she was attacked by a large carbuncle on the right hip, which was treated in the usual manner—she lay comatose for a fortnight before death, and died on 28th February, apparently from maniacal excitement and carbuncle.