

The Retirement of Dr. Orange, C.B.

But one feeling, that of regret, has been felt at the retirement of Dr. Orange from the post he has so admirably filled in the State asylum for criminal lunatics at Broadmoor. The event is saddened by the reflection that his health has been seriously impaired by the injury received from one of the patients (Rev. H. S. Dodwell) four years ago, commented upon at the time in this Journal. The efficiency with which the specially difficult administration of this institution has been marked is acknowledged by all who have made themselves acquainted with its condition. One fact among others has struck us forcibly as evidence of this, that during many years, but few casualties have occurred. We can from our own knowledge testify not only to the favourable impression produced upon ourselves when visiting Broadmoor, but to that also produced upon the minds of the French Commission on the occasion of their visit in the autumn of 1883. In their report to the Senate this feeling finds expression when they speak with satisfaction of the small number of escapes and other casualties, as also of "the unexpected spectacle of good order, tranquillity, and perfect discipline which strikes strangers who visit it;" and M. Motet, who visited Broadmoor during the International Medical Congress in 1881, thus wrote: "We have returned from Broadmoor satisfied with having found the realization of an idea that has always appeared to us to be right."

When, in 1862, Dr. Meyer was elected Superintendent of Broadmoor, Dr. Orange, who had previously been Assistant Medical Officer at the Surrey County Asylum, Wandsworth, was appointed Deputy-Superintendent, and went into residence in February, 1863, when the asylum was opened. On the death of the former in 1870, he was promoted to the vacant Superintendentship, and has therefore held the office for sixteen years. The dangers of the post are painfully emphasized by the three assaults made upon the Medical Officers, the first upon Dr. Meyer, the second upon Dr. Orange, and the third upon Dr. Nicolson. After hard and anxious work, Dr. Orange succeeded in reducing the complicated details of the asylum-administration and of questions which thereafter arose as to the best methods of dealing with the criminal lunatics of the country, to a complete system, such as has earned the unqualified praise of visitors from all parts of the world.

As President of the Reading branch of the British Medical Association in 1877, Dr. Orange delivered a most instructive address on the "Present Relation of Insanity to the Criminal Law of England," in which he vigorously attacked the legal tests of responsibility maintained by English law.

Then, again, as President of our Association in 1883, he justified to the fullest extent the confidence reposed in him, and his Address at the Annual Meeting, held at the College of Physicians, will long be remembered as at once able and full of practical suggestions on the subject upon which his mature experience enabled him to speak with so much authority. It was, we have reason to know, an outcome of this Address that a different course was pursued by the Government in relation to the examination, before their trial, of persons accused of crime, by means of which a vast amount of conflicting medical evidence has been prevented and the scandal connected therewith avoided.

The appreciation in which Dr. Orange was held at Broadmoor was evinced by the presentation of a handsome silver salver by the officers and staff of the Institution on the 31st May, the value of which, we doubt not, was much enhanced by the expression that it was "a token of their personal esteem, and in affectionate remembrance of many acts of kindness." The proceedings on the occasion were of an enthusiastic character, during which Dr. Orange feelingly referred to the cordial assistance he had received from all during the quarter of a century he had been with them as superintendent or deputy.

It is some alleviation to the painful side of Dr. Orange's retirement that he has not only been thus warmly appreciated in the circle of his own Institution, but that the Prime Minister recommended to Her Majesty to bestow upon Dr. Orange the Civil Companionship of the Order of the Bath, to mark the sense entertained of his services by the Government, the public, and the profession. We are sure that but one feeling is present to the minds of the members of the Medico-Psychological Association, that, namely, of cordial congratulation of the recipient of so well-merited an honour, one wholly unsolicited and due solely to sterling merit, apart from any political influence whatever.

We trust that many years are in store for Dr. Orange, and that his health may be eventually restored by rest and change of scene. Should this be the case, we may hope that he will embody the results of his vast experience with

regard to criminal lunatics in a permanent form. As is well known, it was not only as Superintendent of Broadmoor, but as the adviser of the Home Office in doubtful and difficult cases, that Dr. Orange matured his experience, so that in both relations his opportunities of observation of the delicate shades between criminal and insane conditions have been exceptionally great, and would afford materials for Commentaries of the greatest utility to experts in Psychological Medicine.

The successor to Dr. Orange is Dr. Nicolson, well qualified for the post by his practical acquaintance with Broadmoor, and widely known by his contributions to the literature of insanity and crime. The best wish we can express for him is that he may walk in the footsteps of his former chief.

PART II.—REVIEWS.

Hospital Construction and Management. By FREDERICK T. MOUAT, F.R.C.S., Local Government Inspector, &c., and H. SAXON SNELL, Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Artists. London: J. and A. Churchill.

(*Third Notice.*)

Taking up that part of the book covered by category *c.*,—examples from abroad,—we are in the presence of a number of schemes, from which, for our purpose, a choice must be made.

Foremost would appear to be the “Johns Hopkins” Hospital of Baltimore, United States, America.

A most interesting account is given of the circumstances leading to the founding of this institution, together with a subsidiary asylum for orphan coloured children.

The hospital is a fair specimen of the pavilion system, treated in a somewhat different fashion to any other examples given in the book before us. The adjoining illustration shows the disposition of the general plan and some details.

Mr. Snell says of it: “There can be but one opinion, that the design now being carried out will produce a building worthy in every respect the object of the founder, and highly