

business, and it is absolutely indispensable to the good management of a large medical establishment that some one should be on the spot to assume his duties, who is already familiar to some extent with the cases of the patients, and is also accustomed to the routine of the asylum, and able to make the wheels of discipline work smoothly. For this purpose an assistant, trained under the eye of the principal resident physician, is exactly what is wanted. But besides this there is another and most practical point suggested by our correspondent—namely, that if we are to keep up the supply of men who shall be properly qualified to take the supreme charge of any of these public asylums—even of one with only 150 beds—we must have such posts as that of Assistant resident, in which men may be gradually trained into fitness for the responsible office of managing the whole medical discipline of such places. It is of supreme importance, as regards the scientific education of young alienist physicians, that they should not commence active practice by being pitchforked suddenly into a place of irresponsible power (medically speaking), where the fullest liberty would be allowed them for airing those *à priori* notions to which all young men are liable, but which specially beset young men who have to deal for the first time with a very difficult and mysterious subject. And we may add one more consideration—namely, that if the day is ever to come when the obvious and common sense step of utilising public asylums as schools for the study of lunacy shall be adopted, it will be found utterly impossible to employ the resources of these establishments for clinical teaching so long as they are insufficiently supplied with resident officers. Nothing but a sufficient supply of resident medical officers, to ensure that individual patients are *closely watched*, as well as cleverly treated, can make the histories of their cases sufficiently accurate to be really valuable in teaching men who have yet the alphabet of alienist medicine to learn.—*The Lancet*, January 11.

Appointments.

P. M. COOKE, L.A.H. Dub., has been appointed Apothecary to the New County Wexford Lunatic Asylum at Enniscorthy.

T. E. CRALLAN, M.A., has been appointed Chaplain to the Sussex Lunatic Asylum.

T. G. CRANFIELD, M.D., has been appointed Visiting Physician to the new County Wexford Lunatic Asylum at Enniscorthy.

P. M. CULLINAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.I., has been appointed Consulting and Visiting Physician to the District Lunatic Asylum for the County of Clare.

G. S. ELLIOT, L.R.C.P. Ed., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the County and City of Worcester Lunatic Asylum at Powick, vice G. J. Hearder, M.D., appointed Medical Superintendent of the Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Cardiganshire joint Lunatic Asylum at Carmarthen.

J. H. HATCHELL, L.K.Q.C.P.I., has been appointed Resident Medical Superintendent of the Maryborough District Lunatic Asylum, vice T. W. Shiell, M.B., appointed to the District Lunatic Asylum at Enniscorthy.

J. TREGELLES HINGSTON, Esq., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Isle of Man Lunatic Asylum.

HENRY HAWKINS, M.A., late Chaplain of the Sussex Lunatic Asylum, has been appointed to the Middlesex Lunatic Asylum at Colney Hatch.

G. MICKLEY, M.A., M.B., Cantab., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Three Counties Asylum, Arlesey, Beds.

R. H. HEURTLEY SANKEY, M.R.C.S., has been appointed Superintendent and Medical Officer of the County Asylum, Littlemore, near Oxford, on the resignation of Mr. William Ley.

DR. SIBBALD, Medical Superintendent of the District Asylum for Argyleshire, and Dr. MACKINTOSH, Medical Superintendent of the District Asylum for Perthshire, have been elected "*Membres Associés étrangers*" of the *Société Médico-Psychologique*.

J. WALLIS, L.R.C.P.Ed., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Durham County Asylum, Sedgfield.

H. M. L. WALTERS, M.A., has been appointed Chaplain to the Oxford Lunatic Asylum at Littlemore.

R. R. B. WICKHAM, L.R.C.P.Ed., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Royal Asylum for the Insane, Morningside, Edinburgh.

PRESENTATION.—A handsome mediæval metal gilt inkstand, with candlesticks to match, with the arms of the Asylum on an enamelled shield, have been presented to Henry Hawkins, M.A., late Chaplain of the Sussex Lunatic Asylum, Haywards Heath, as a parting gift from the Chairman and several members of the committee of visitors, the officers, attendants, artisans, and servants, who united in a joint subscription for this purpose.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

GENTLEMEN,

I take the liberty to call your attention to the subjoined correspondence between the Commissioners of Lunacy and myself, and to ask you to allow the same to appear in the columns of your journal; so that the widest publicity may be given, and on public grounds, to the facts stated.

It is well to remember that *clause 26*, alluded to in my letter, makes it incumbent on the proprietors of licensed houses for the insane to give "*notice of dismissal for misconduct of attendants*" to the Commissioners of Lunacy.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES G. DAVEY, M.D.

Northwood, near Bristol, Feby. 12, 1868.

Northwood, Bristol, Jany. 3, 1868.

SIR,

Reverting to a former letter of mine of October last, a letter suggested by clause 26—16 and 17 Vict., cap. 96—and which informs you of the charge of larceny made by me against *Henry Salvidge*, lately an attendant here in my service, I have now to report that on or after the trial (which took place at Gloucester, January 1st, 1868) of the said *Henry Salvidge*, he was acquitted of the crime named.

In connection with this case I think it right to call the attention of the Commissioners of Lunacy to the fact that the several articles of apparel, &c., including trousers, handkerchiefs, collars, &c., &c., and one umbrella, the properties of several patients in this asylum, though found at Foulton, and in his, *Henry Salvidge's*, possession, and now returned to my care, were held to have been given to him (H. S.) by the gentlemen here alluded to; and so it was that he has escaped with all impunity.

I have the authority of my solicitor to state that had a formal notice, duly posted about my establishment, been in existence, to the effect that no attendant was authorised to receive presents of any kind from patients, he (*Henry Salvidge*) would then have been found guilty of the theft, and punished accordingly.

I should add that there is a stringent and well-known rule (though not posted in this asylum) that no servant shall on any account whatever receive presents from patients (ladies or gentlemen), and to this "rule" all prominence was given by myself and the other witnesses (matron and attendant) against the person before named.