

THE ASYLUM CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN.

[We have received the following communication from the Chaplain of the Colney Hatch Asylum as the first contribution to what we hope will be a permanent feature of this Journal—the column set aside for the use of chaplains attached to asylums and hospitals for the insane.

In a circular addressed to these officers we have stated that:—“ We have decided to introduce into the ‘ Journal of Mental Science ’ an Asylum Chaplain’s Column. It is thought that the chaplains of asylums would be glad of this means of publicly expressing their views on any matter affecting the interests of the patients, so far as it falls within their province to consider them. We have reason to believe that chaplains will value this opportunity of communicating their opinions and wishes in regard to the office they hold. The Rev. Henry Hawkins has kindly undertaken to receive and arrange any matter falling under the proposed heading. All letters should, therefore, be addressed to him, Chaplain’s House, Colney Hatch, N. It is unnecessary to say that the Editors reserve to themselves the right of admitting or returning any MS. forwarded for publication in the Asylum Column of the ‘ Journal of Mental Science.’ ”]

“ *Ut Cooperatores Simus.* ”

Chaplains of asylums for the insane should feel indebted to you for your willingness to set apart a Chaplain’s Column in your valuable quarterly, for subjects connected with their own special department of work. We chaplains are in a position of partial isolation, living at a distance from one another, and rarely meeting. The duties of the parochial clergy, our neighbours, differ in many respects from our own, and their experiences do not qualify them to supply the particular advice and counsels of which we may sometimes stand in need. The conditions under which they and ourselves carry on our ministerial work are not altogether analogous. As regards communication with one another through the Press, asylum chaplains are too few in number (*rari nantes*) to establish and support a periodical of their own. No doubt some of those already in existence would occasionally receive communications from chaplains on subjects relating to their own field of ministerial work. But

such topics would rarely interest the readers of an ordinary journal or magazine, and an Editor could not be expected to permit their frequent recurrence, so that your kind readiness to assign a limited space in your serial for the discussion of subjects bearing on the work of asylum chaplains deserves their respectful recognition. That small section of the "Journal" would, of course, like the bulk of its contents, be subject to the supervision of the Editors. There could not be "*imperium in imperio*." At the same time, the management would, no doubt, allow of as much freedom as could reasonably be granted in the treatment of subjects. They are numerous, and might profitably, from time to time, be brought under review. It may be allowable to indicate some of the topics about which chaplains might, with advantage, take counsel of one another, to the benefit of their own work and of those to whom they minister.

Questions would arise about the best methods of conducting, in their various details, the *chapel services*; about the most edifying *length* of Sunday and week-day prayers, and of sermons; about the frequency of Communion, and the selection, from among patients, of communicants; again, the results of experience with respect to the *influence* of religious services on the insane might be profitably noted; information on the subject of the admission of so-called *refractory patients* to public worship would be useful to many of us, as well as opinions whether this class, in our communities, should have separate religious services, or should be associated with others—different views are taken of this question; services for the staff or *household* might be appropriately discussed in a Chaplain's Column. Such intramural congregations, assembling, perhaps, late in the evening, after long hours of work, are differently circumstanced from evening congregations in parish churches. The composition of the *choir* again, whether consisting of members of the staff, male or female, or of patients, or of both associated, whether assisted in some cases by friends outside, might be communicated, with the probable result of the improvement of asylum choirs, which, in many cases, contribute greatly to the devotion and attractiveness of the services. It may be sufficient in this brief paper simply to enumerate *some* of the topics, which, by favour of the Editors of the Journal, might be from quarter to quarter discussed within the space considerably allotted. *Ward services* and general visitations, ministrations to clinics in infirmaries

and elsewhere, visits to "airing courts" (why not gardens?) affording opportunities of more private conversation of chaplains with patients.—*Correspondence* on behalf of patients with absent, often neglectful, friends, with very satisfactory results.—*Visiting days*, on which intercourse may be held with patients' relations and acquaintances, and much useful information obtained.—The chaplain's duties towards colleagues and other members of the staff.—*Variety of pulpit ministrations* by invitation to clergymen outside.—Introduction to friendless patients of visitors and correspondents. The subject of "*After-care*."—These are but some of the matters connected not only with a chaplain's department, but with the common good of the house, which may be allowed to come under review in the place kindly assigned by the Editors of the Journal.

P.S.—Opinions are respectfully invited, in the next issue of the "J.M.S.," on the subject of the limits of time within which, having regard to the circumstances of our congregations, Sunday and week-day services, respectively, should be comprised? and of the arrangements best calculated to combine the integrity of church worship with moderate duration?

H. H.

PART II.—REVIEWS.

Hereditary Genius. By FRANCIS GALTON, F.R.S. Second Edition. London: Macmillan. 1892.

The second edition of this important and laborious work has been published after the lapse of nearly a quarter of a century. Since its first appearance it has become possible to look at the matter dealt with from a somewhat different standpoint, to the attainment of which Mr. Galton has himself largely contributed. The author has, wisely, left his book as he wrote it, but he has added a prefatory chapter which is of considerable interest. In this chapter Mr. Galton makes two admissions which entirely disarm certain criticisms to which we have long felt that this book lay open. The first concerns the title. In using the word "Genius" Mr. Galton opened the way for some misapprehension which would have been quite avoided had he selected the title, which he now admits would have been better, of *Hereditary Ability*. "There was not," he tells us, "the slightest intention on my part to use the word 'genius' in any technical