

The following is an excerpt from the Minutes of Meeting of the General Board of Lunacy, held at Edinburgh, on the 24th of May, 1870 :—

On the occasion of Dr. Browne's retirement it was resolved : "That the Board record their deep sense of the zeal, energy, and assiduity with which, during nearly thirteen years, Dr. Browne discharged the arduous and responsible duties of his office; and that the Secretary be instructed to convey to Dr. Browne an intimation of this resolution, with an expression of the great regret of the Board for the loss of his valuable and important services, and of their sympathy with him in the very sad misfortune which led to his resignation."

C. L. R.

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*The Good Old Times!*

At the present time, when several deeply to be lamented abuses in asylums for the insane have come to light, and have produced something like a reaction in favour of the old *regime*, the following unpublished letter, written by the late Godfrey Higgins, Esq., may serve to prove that the moral tone of our asylums was *nearly* as low then as now! I would especially commend it to the attention of the past-admiring editor of the "Pall Mall Gazette."

The service rendered by Mr. Higgins to the cause of the insane is well known to most of your readers. Some years ago a MS. diary of his passed through the hands of a relative of mine, who made the following memorandum which I subjoin. I have in my possession a series of letters which passed between him and my late father, Samuel Tuke, of York, in reference to the abuses of the York asylum, from which I may at some future time make some extracts, illustrative of a very important period in the history of the amelioration of the condition of the insane in England, and, through England, of the world.

D. H. T.

*Memorandum.*

Godfrey Higgins, in his diary, states that he was in Paris, and visited Pinel. He was very politely received by him, and visited the asylum for French lunatics under his management, and was much pleased with it. He did not think there was anything to learn, except in the employment of the patients. He was rather suspicious that he did not see *the whole* of the establishment. He was convinced there were many persons