

protected by guards, taps for gas secured under lock and key, and all windows and gas jets be placed out of reach.

Patients should be watched at meals to see that they eat enough, and do not take food in a dangerous manner.

Some curious weapons were exhibited, made by suicidal patients from pieces of crinoline steel, firewood and string forming a knife, and from stones tied up in a stocking forming a hammer, and other curious inventions.

The paper concluded by a tribute of praise to the attendants, by whose devotion suicide in asylums is reduced to a minimum.

---

### ILLENAU'S GOLDEN JUBILEE.

Since we received the "Festschrift," issued at the time of the Jubilee, which we have noticed in this Journal (p. 109), we have received from the Director, Dr. Schüle, an account of the proceedings which took place at Illenau on the 27th September, 1892.

Our space allows us only to note that the occasion was a very brilliant one. The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden honoured it by their presence. The ceremony was partly religious, partly secular. A sermon was delivered by the Chaplain. The Duke replied to a loyal speech in which he was addressed. Dr. Schüle, of course, spoke. Among other things a hymn, specially written for the Ceremony, was sung at the Service, and a special poem eulogizing the work performed at Illenau was recited during the proceedings. Altogether the enthusiasm and the tributes paid to those who had been the making of the asylum were of the warmest character, and the success was, we are glad to say, as great as it deserved to be. Congratulations in regard to the past were combined with the expression of the hope that in the future still greater heights would be reached in the treatment of the insane. We add our "Amen!"

---

### *Obituary.*

#### THOMAS AITKEN, M.D. EDIN.

We regret to have to record the death of Dr. Aitken, of the Inverness District Asylum, one of the senior members of the Medico-Psychological Association.

Dr. Aitken was born in Dumfries, and was rocked in his cradle by the widow of the poet Burns. After attending school in Birmingham he served as assistant medical officer under the late Dr. W. A. F. Browne in the Crichton Royal Institution, and thereafter completed his medical education in Edinburgh. He graduated in 1856 and then became assistant medical officer in Durham County Asylum with Dr. R. Smith, before being appointed Superintendent of the Inverness Asylum in 1859. That institution was completed in 1863, and was designed to accommodate 300 patients. Since then it has been repeatedly enlarged, and now contains over 500. Further accommodation being urgently required, Dr. Aitken was, until the time of his sudden illness, occupied in designing a separate hospital block for the reception of acute cases. Although it was well known that for some years his health was far from being robust, and