

twenty years of notable work in the asylums of that country, within a short step of reaching the highest place, he is cast adrift without pension or compensation. The political record of Victoria is debased still further by this last example of shameless misgovernment. Dr. Beattie Smith has had to give place to an assistant medical officer, who, if the allegations against him reported in the *Lancet* <sup>(1)</sup> are to be trusted, was utterly unfit for the post. The "Minister" at the head of the department, however, acted in spite of the Inspector's protest. The callous indecency of the incident, as related by the Australian correspondent of the *Lancet*, passes belief, were it not that it is of a piece with what has gone before. We trust that the Council of the Association will carefully consider the whole question raised by this act of Victorian maladministration, for it not only affects one of our members, but vitally touches the interests of the insane in those important asylums at the Antipodes.

(1) See "Notes and News."

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*The International Medical Congress at Madrid.*

The fourteenth International Medical Congress is now a thing of the past. About 7000 members attended it, exclusive of the wives and families accompanying them. For some unknown reason the Madrid authorities included in the Congress not only doctors, but dentists, veterinarians, and pharmacists as well. This was too large a number of persons for the authorities to manage, and consequently a good deal of confusion prevailed. The Spaniard is a polite, courteous gentleman, but his business capacity is decidedly wanting. Moreover, the results of that fatal word *mañana* (to-morrow) were everywhere in evidence, and arrangements which should have been made weeks before were only just concluded when the Congress opened. An account of the proceedings of the neurological section appears on another page. From it it will be seen that the Association had honours conferred on it by the election of three of its members to the position of Honorary Presidents. The difficulty of understanding what was said by the Spaniards, however, led many men to forsake the Congress

and explore Madrid, or go on excursions to the Escorial and Toledo. The reports and papers were too numerous for the time allotted to them, and only about a third of the sixty-six communications were read. On another occasion it will be better to limit their number and allow all of them to be read. Only one resolution was passed by the neurological section—a resolution calling on the Press not to report crimes, in order to avoid the contagion of crime. It is doubtful, however, whether the editors of the Press in any country will consent to omit the most sensational part of the contents of their paper; but that too much prominence is given to the life of the criminal in prison and to accounts of his life-history, in some papers, there is no doubt, and the consequence is that weak-minded individuals commit some homicidal or other criminal act.

As regards the Congress itself, it was an unwieldy affair and lacked several of the characteristics of a scientific meeting.

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## Part II.—Reviews.

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*Report on Dieting of Pauper Lunatics in Asylums and Lunatic Wards of Poorhouses in Scotland.* By Dr. J. C. DUNLOP. (Supplement to the *Forty-third Annual Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland.*) 1902. Price 5½d.

IN this supplement of their *Forty-third Annual Report* we have one more illustration of the very vital interest which is evinced by the Scottish Lunacy Board in all that concerns the real welfare of those dependent members of society who come under their cognizance. The very valuable indications afforded by the report, if acted upon, as they undoubtedly will be, can only result in rectifying very apparent anomalies of diet scales—anomalies which one is glad to find are not so much in the direction of niggardliness as in the direction of wasteful and irrational expenditure in certain kinds of diet at the expense of other and essential items of food.

Dr. Dunlop takes as a standard of an all-round dietary for pauper lunatics one that has an energy value of 3300 large calories for males, and of 2650 for females, and, judged by this, the result in the aggregate serves to show that so far as males are concerned the physiological idea which underlies common sense in the matter of food is not very far wrong, though there are numerous very anomalous departures from the standard in individual institutions.