

RETIREMENT OF MR. JAMES WILKES FROM THE COMMISSION IN LUNACY.

After a long and most honourable career in connection with lunacy, Mr. JAMES WILKES, F.R.C.S., one of the Medical Commissioners in Lunacy, has retired. He entered the profession of medicine in 1834; was for fifteen years Medical Superintendent of the Asylum at Stafford, where he showed such administrative ability, and brought the asylum to such a high state of perfection, that he was selected as one of the Commissioners. He has held that position for twenty-three years, doing his duty earnestly, zealously, and fearlessly. To say that he was universally liked would be to say that he did not do his duty in the positions where he was often placed, but we say, without fear of contradiction, that he was generally respected. Though, in our opinion, he yielded too much to the strong influence that tends to make an English Commissioner an official pure and simple rather than a physician, yet his sympathies went always with his professional brethren. He knew the difficulties of asylum management too well from experience, not to make allowances for inevitable accidents if the Superintendent was doing his duty. He had the genuine philanthropic spirit, without which no man should have anything to do with the insane.

The great work he did, by which he will be best remembered, was the leading part he took in founding the important Registered Lunatic Hospital for the middle-classes at Coton Hill, Stafford. He carries with him to his well-earned retirement the heartiest wishes of his professional brethren that he may long and happily enjoy it.

APPOINTMENT OF DR. W. RHYS WILLIAMS AS COMMISSIONER IN LUNACY.

W. RHYS WILLIAMS, M.D., has been selected as Commissioner in Lunacy by the Lord Chancellor, in place of Mr. Wilkes, who retires. Dr. Williams has held the appointment of Medical Superintendent of Bethlem Royal Hospital for twelve years; the reputation of that venerable institution having steadily grown under his management. For the past three years he has held the position of Honorary Secretary to the Medico-Psychological Association, the members of which will, we are sure, join very cordially with us in congratulating him on his promotion.

LUNACY CLAUSES OF THE NEW MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In this Bill, as passed by the House of Lords, there is a provision for remedying the present anomaly of Scotch and Irish medical men not being able to sign lunacy certificates for Asylums in England, and *vice versa*. In the original Bill the present power of asylum medical officers in Scotland to sign certificates of emergency, or one of the two certificates required for the admission of a pauper patient into a public asylum was, no doubt, by inadvertence withdrawn, and, in fact, such certificates were made penal, but the Asylum Superintendents in Scotland drew up a statement in regard to this matter, showing the conveniences and uses of the present practice which was adopted by the Council of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and sent by them to the Duke of Richmond, who promptly amended the clause in accordance with their representations.

OBITUARY NOTICES OF THE LATE SIR JAMES COXE.

The death of Sir JAMES COXE has removed suddenly from the scene of his useful labours one whose public life was inspired with a singleminded zeal to promote the measures most conducive to the welfare of the insane and the