

The late Dr. William Hutcheson.

We have to record the death of a physician who was not only distinguished in psychological medicine, but endeared to all who knew him by the kindness of his disposition, his various accomplishments, and his active and highly valuable exertions in the cause of the insane when their improved treatment had not yet many friends. The late Dr. William Hutcheson was a man whose name ought not to be forgotten. He died on the 24th of March last, at Wellington Square, Ayr. He was one of the original members of our Association, for many years the superintendent physician of the Glasgow Royal Asylum for the Insane; and a leading authority on lunacy in Scotland. Dr. Hutcheson was born in Edinburgh, in 1807: and received his education at the High School and University of that city. When he had completed his medical studies there, he proceeded to Paris, in order still further to extend his knowledge of the profession which he had chosen. Insanity had for some time been a subject of much interest to him, and in Paris he had the advantage of becoming practically acquainted with the phenomena of mental disease, and the treatment of the insane, under the able teaching of the celebrated Esquirol. He commenced practice in Edinburgh, and besides assisting in the editorial department of the 'Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal,' he contributed largely to various other periodicals of that time.

In 1838, an opportunity presented itself more in accordance with his inclination than general practice. Dr. Balmanno, one of the most distinguished medical men in the west of Scotland, and at that time physician to the Glasgow Asylum, intimated his desire, in consequence of advanced age, to have a younger colleague associated with him, to undertake the more arduous part of the duties, and strongly recommended Dr. Hutcheson, who was appointed accordingly. Dr. Balmanno died very soon afterwards, and Dr. Hutcheson was appointed physician in chief.

The new buildings at Gartnavel were erected in 1841, mainly from the designs of Dr. Hutcheson. Although compared with the modern English County Asylums, the Glasgow Asylum appears gloomy and prison-like; it must yet be remembered that it was the first Scotch Asylum built under the influence of the teaching of the new system, and that the experience of the quarter of a century which has elapsed since then, has greatly enlarged our belief in the capacity of the insane to be treated like those sick of other diseases, and that it would be unfair to expect the Glasgow Asylum to bear comparison with the new buildings just about to be opened at Inverness.

Dr. Hutcheson's annual reports were like those of his *confrère* and friend, Dr. Conolly, models of elegant and forcible language. He was an excellent classical scholar, and extensively read, not only in the literature of his profession, but also in general literature. He was an able practitioner, distinguished for accuracy of diagnosis, both as physician to the asylum, and in his wider practice as a consulting physician. He had great experience in civil and criminal cases, and brought to the witness-box the same clearness of apprehension and accuracy of judgment which elsewhere distinguished him. He had a warm and generous disposition, was scrupulously particular in regard to medical etiquette, and a sincere friend to his rising medical brethren, and those who were in distress. Alas! "the web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together." In 1848, after holding office for a dozen years, he met with a series of domestic afflictions, which, acting on a highly sensitive mind, and a body already enfeebled by previous illness, rendered it necessary that he should remit the more arduous part of his

professional duties, and he resigned his appointment, ultimately settling in Ayr, where he lived in great retirement and feeble health until his death, on the 24th March, 1863.—R. I. P.

Appointments.

WHITEHALL, July 11th.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint Sir John Don-Wauchope, Bart., to be Unpaid Commissioner and Chairman of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland, in the room of William Forbes Mackenzie, Esq., deceased.

WHITEHALL, August 11th.—The Queen has been pleased to direct letters to be passed under the Great Seal, granting the dignity of a Knight of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland unto James Coxe, of Kinellan, in the county of Edinburgh, Doctor of Medicine, one of the Commissioners of the General Board of Lunacy for Scotland.

T. Allen, M.D. St. And., late Assistant Medical Officer of the Lincolnshire County Lunatic Asylum, has been appointed by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, on the recommendation of the Commissioners in Lunacy, Resident Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Kingston, Jamaica.

Dr. Thomas Crowe Burton, M.D. Glasg., has been appointed Superintendent of the Waterford Lunatic Asylum.

W. Davies, M.R.C.S., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Salop and Montgomery Counties Lunatic Asylum, Shrewsbury.

J. Edmundson, M.D. St. And., has been appointed Assistant Resident Medical Officer to the Clonmel Auxiliary District Lunatic Asylum.

O. Jepson, M.D. St. And., Assistant Medical Officer to the Male Department of the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, Hanwell, has been appointed Resident Medical Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital for Lunatics, London.

W. Kemm, M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Visiting Surgeon to the Kingsdown Lunatic Asylum, Box, Wiltshire.

William Niven, M.D. St. And., Assistant-Surgeon Bombay Army, late Assistant Medical Officer of the Essex Lunatic Asylum, Brentwood, to be Medical Superintendent of the Bombay Lunatic Asylum, Colaba.

We are glad to find the care of the insane in the presidency of Bombay is thus entrusted to a member of this Association, trained in the Essex Lunatic Asylum. The Governor of Bombay deserves great credit for so wise a selection. The number of patients in the asylum is about 200, of whom 170 are natives. The salary is £570, with a free house.

Dr. C. B. Radcliffe, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., &c., has been appointed Physician to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, in consequence of the retirement of Dr. Brown-Séquard.

Dr. John Charles George Robertson, L.R.C.P. Edin., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer of the Female Department of the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, Hanwell.

Mr. John H. Simpson, M.R.C.S. Eng., has been appointed Second Assistant Medical Officer at the Kent County Lunatic Asylum, Barmingheath.

John B. Tuke, M.D. Edin., to be one of the Assistant Physicians to the Royal Lunatic Asylum, Morningside, Edinburgh.

Dr. David Yellowlees, M.D. Edin., has been appointed Medical Superintendent to the Glamorganshire County Lunatic Asylum, Bridgend.