

we must regard this matter as an especial object of our own, as our mission. I have for a long time held the opinions with regard to suicide that I have expressed to-day, and for the last ten years I have been working at this question. I do hope now that I have brought the subject to the attention of the members of this Society that they will join in forcing it fairly and consistently upon the attention of the public at large.

The PRESIDENT—It is proposed by Dr. Arlidge, and seconded by Dr. Sankey, "That a committee be appointed to examine the lunacy laws of the Continental States of Europe and of the United States of America, and to report thereon to this Association, with recommendations for the adoption of such of them as may seem desirable additions to or amendments of the laws in force in the United Kingdom." Also that the following gentlemen form the committee:—Dr. Boyd, or the President for the time being; Dr. Wood, Dr. Sankey, Dr. Christie, Dr. Davey, Dr. Maudsley, Dr. Sibbald, Dr. Batty Tuke, Dr. Arlidge, Dr. Clouston, and Dr. Lalor, with power to add to their number.

The resolution was agreed to.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Royal College of Physicians and to the Medico-Chirurgical Society for the use of their rooms.

The proceedings then terminated.

The Members and their friends dined together in the evening at Willis's Rooms.

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The Honorary Secretary has received the following letter from Dr. LOCKHART ROBERTSON:—

Lunatic's Visitors' Office,  
45, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.  
September 9th, 1870.

MY DEAR DR. TUKE,—

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ult., conveying to me the very flattering resolution passed by the Medico-Psychological Association at the late annual meeting, when my resignation of the Editorship of the *Journal of Mental Science* was accepted.

I beg you will say to the Association how highly I value this expression of their satisfaction with the manner in which I have performed the several duties of Secretary and of Editorship during the past fifteen years. So pleasant were they to me, that I now sometimes, in the weariness of hope fulfilled, wish I were again working with you at our common objects of interest in the advancement of the practice and science of Medico-Psychology.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

C. LOCKHART ROBERTSON.

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*The following Circular has been issued by the Commissioners in Lunacy:—*

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY,  
19, WHITEHALL PLACE, S.W.,  
July, 1870.

SIR,

Attention has lately been given to the subject of transfers, under the Commissioners' consent, of private patients from one Asylum to another, or from the care of one person to that of another.

The friends of patients frequently request that the necessary documents for their transfer may be forwarded immediately. Before acceding to this request, however, a medical report as to the patient's bodily state, mental condition, and fitness for removal has to be obtained, and thus considerable delay is caused.

In many cases also persons who have not authority to discharge the patient, and consequently are not entitled to apply for a transfer, make the application, much delay taking place again from this cause.

I am therefore directed to suggest that, in all cases in which it comes to your knowledge that the friends of patients under your care are about to apply for the consent of the Commissioners to their transfer, you will have the kindness to supply such persons with the medical report for simultaneous transmission to this Office. You might also explain to them at the same time that the persons who can apply for such transfer are:—

1. The person *who signed the order* for the Patient's admission:
2. If such person be incapable (by reason of insanity, or absence from England, or otherwise), or if he be dead, then by the *Husband or Wife* of the patient:
3. If there be no Husband or Wife, then by the patient's *Father*:
4. If there be no Father, then by the Patient's *Mother*:
5. If there be no Father or Mother, then by any *one* of the Patient's *nearest of kin*: Or by the person *who made the last payment* on the Patient's account.

In cases 2, 3, 4, and 5, some proof should be furnished of the death or incapacity of the person who signed the order for admission.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

CHARLES PALMER PHILLIPS,

Secretary.

### *Books Received.*

Fisiologia e Patologia dello Spirito. Per Enrico Maudsley. Prima Versione Italiana condotta sulla, 2nd ed. ultima, edizione inglese e annotata. Pel Dottor Domenico Collina, Medico Primario in Orvieto. Napoli, 1870.

*(The first part of an Italian translation of Dr. Maudsley's Physiology and Pathology of Mind.)*

On the Writing of the Insane; with Illustrations. By G. Mackenzie Bacon, M.D., Medical Superintendent of the Cambridgeshire County Asylum. Churchill and Sons.

*(A praiseworthy attempt to break ground in a new and important direction, which we hope to notice in our next number.)*

The Practitioner; a Monthly Journal of Therapeutics. Edited by Francis E. Anstie, M.D., F.R.C.P. Vol. iv., January to June. Macmillan and Co., 1870.

*(When this Journal first appeared we expressed an apprehension lest there should be lack of material to sustain it in vigorous life. The result has proved our apprehensions to have been vain. It has gone on and prospered under the able guidance of its Editor, who may now point with satisfaction to four handsome volumes filled with a variety of important practical contributions to therapeutics. "The Practitioner" is, as it should be, a mine of information for the practitioner, who will hardly know the measure of his healing powers unless he consult its pages.)*