

Dr. Baker possessed great charm of manner, and was peculiarly persuasive in his dealings with his patients. He was, therefore, in a remarkable degree successful in inducing them to follow his advice. His kindness and personal attention to the less intelligent patients was especially marked, and the manner in which the faces of these would light up when he paid his periodical visits as consulting physician was witness to the great esteem in which he was held by his old patients. One was reminded of the words of Samuel Tuke in speaking of the insane—"In the wreck of the intellect the affections not infrequently survive," and it seems reasonable to conclude that Dr. Baker was influenced by the same considerations which led Conolly to write—"Constant intercourse and constant kindness can alone obtain the entire confidence of patients, and this confidence is the very key-stone of successful management."

Dr. Baker was not a voluminous writer; the following articles were published by him: "Case of Delusional Insanity; Autopsy," *Journal of Mental Science*, 1878; "The Insane in United States and Canada," *The Friend*, 1885; "Ten Years' Experience in the Use of the Turkish Bath in the Treatment of Mental Ill-health," *Journal of Mental Science*, 1889; "Notes on Some Asylum Specialities in use at The Retreat, York," *ibid.*, 1890; "Notes Descriptive of a New Hospital Villa at the York Retreat," *ibid.*, 1891; "Presidential Address on the Retreat Centenary," *ibid.*, 1892.

The following note is added by one who knew Dr. Baker well:

"I knew Dr. Baker well and intimately from the time he was a medical student in Edinburgh. He was popular as a student, and his career was a successful one. In midwifery he won the Gold Medal in Dr. Matthews Duncan's class, in itself no small distinction. He was fortunate enough to become Resident to Mr. Syme, who was then at the zenith of his fame, in the surgical wards of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and in this post, which was eagerly coveted, he greatly distinguished himself by his devotion to his work and his successful management of the frequent difficulties with which he had to deal. On the recommendation of Mr. Syme he afterwards became assistant to the late Mr. Bickersteth, of Liverpool, with whom he remained for about two years, till, an opportunity arising of beginning practice in his native town, he settled there. Soon after he was joined in practice by his brother-in-law, and, with him, he speedily laid the foundation of what promised to be a large and successful practice. But his stay in Thirsk was short, for, five years after going there, he went to York and turned his attention to that branch of practice to which nearly all his professional life was devoted.

"Dr. Baker possessed in a high degree the capacity for making friends. He was peculiarly kindly, pleasant and attractive in manner, and those whom he so attracted usually became his attached friends for life. To such as needed help he was ever willing to extend a helping hand, and by them his ready kindness will always be gratefully remembered. His last illness was a long and trying one; it was borne with wonderful fortitude and resignation, and his memory will ever be cherished by the sorrowing friends he has left behind him."

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#### REPORT OF THE BRITISH COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE CAUSES AND THE PREVENTION OF INSANITY TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION IN 1910.

Since its formation, in 1907, the British Committee of the International Institute for the Study of the Causes and the Prevention of Insanity has met on four occasions in London. Two of the meetings were held subsequently to the reunion of the International Committee in Amsterdam, in 1907, and two since the last meeting of the International Commission at Vienna, in 1908. The resolutions adopted at the International meetings were communicated to the British Committee. The question as to what steps should be taken by the British Committee in order to support the work and objects of the International Commission always occupied a prominent place in the discussions of the British Committee, but it was felt to be inexpedient to assume any definite attitude or to approach any public body, society, or private individual, until it was definitely known what finan-

cial support was to be given to the Institute by the various governments which had sent delegates to take part in the deliberations of the International Commission at Vienna.

The Committee desire to draw the attention of the members of this Association to the report of Drs. John Macpherson and Percy Smith, the official delegates of the British Government to the meetings of the International Commission at Vienna, which is published in the July number of the *Journal of Mental Science*. Therein they will find the history, constitution, and aims of the proposed Institute described in detail.

Of the twenty members of the British Committee nominated by the Medico-Psychological Association two have been removed by death, namely, the late Drs. Conolly Norman and W. W. Ireland. Of the remaining eighteen, eleven have not attended any meeting, and six of these have evinced no interest whatever in the work of the Committee, having neither attended meetings nor apologised for absence. It is desirable that any member who has no wish to remain on the Committee should inform the Secretary to that effect.

J. H. MACDONALD, *Secretary*.

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#### THE LIBRARY OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Library is open daily for reading, and for the purpose of borrowing books. Books may also be borrowed by post, provided that at the time of application threepence in stamps is forwarded to defray the cost of postage. Arrangements have been made with Messrs. Lewis to enable the Association to obtain books from the lending library belonging to that firm should any desired book not be in the Association's Library.

The scheme for the distribution of foreign journals has met with a gratifying response. It is hoped that in future years this method of keeping members in touch with the development of psychiatry in Europe and America may be considerably extended.

The following members have very kindly consented to purchase the journals indicated below, and to forward each number to the Library at the expiration of a fortnight:

Dr. R. H. Cole.—*Revue de Psychiatrie*.

Dr. F. H. Edwards.—*Archives de Psychologie*.

The Committee would be greatly indebted to any other member who is prepared to make a similar offer.

The following books have recently been added to the Library:

Morton Prince.—*Subconscious Phenomena*.

Kraepelin.—*Psychiatrie*, 8th edition, vol. ii.

Applications for books should be addressed to the Resident Librarian, Medico-Psychological Association, 11, Chandos St., Cavendish Sq., W. Other communications should be addressed to the undersigned at Long Grove Asylum, Epsom.

H. DEVINE } *Hon Secretaries,*  
B. HART } *Library Committee.*

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#### NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR.

There will be an examination for the Certificate in Psychological Medicine and the Gaskell Prize early in July, 1911.

Essays for the Bronze Medal must reach the Registrar not later than June 14th, 1911.

There will be a preliminary examination for the Nursing Certificate on the first Monday in May, 1911.

There will be an examination for the Nursing Certificate under the old regulations on the second Monday in May, 1911. The last of these examinations will be