

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of "THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE."

DEAR SIR,—I have the honour to announce that the "American Journal of Insanity," which has been edited and published at the Utica State Hospital for the past fifty years, has lately been sold and transferred to the American Medico-Psychological Association, of which Society it will henceforth be the accredited organ.

The "Journal" will be edited *ad interim* by a Publication Committee consisting of Dr. Edward Cowles, President of the Association, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Henry M. Hurd, Secretary of the Association, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md.; and Dr. Richard Dewey, Chicago, Ill., with the last-named gentleman in immediate editorial charge.

Until further notice it will be published in Chicago, Ill.

*Exchanges*, books for review, and all business communications should be addressed as follows:—

DR. RICHARD DEWEY,  
Managing Editor,  
"American Journal of Insanity,"  
1112, Venetian Buildings, 34, Washington St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Bespeaking for the "Journal," under its new and favourable auspices, your generous encouragement and support, and thanking you, as ex-editor, for innumerable courtesies in the past,

I am, yours faithfully,  
G. ALDER BLUMER.

Utica State Hospital, Utica, N.Y.,  
July 12, 1894.

[We wish every success to our contemporary under its new departure. The late Editor's services are recognized in this country as they justly are in the States.—Ed.]

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 IN SEARCH OF A MAGISTRATE.

To the Editors of "THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE."

GENTLEMEN,—In the hope that something may be done to remedy so great an evil, I ask permission to refer to the difficulty, worry, and serious delay arising out of the necessity of obtaining a magistrate's order for the admission of a private insane patient into an asylum or as a single patient. It is useless now to attempt to repeal the Lunacy Act of 1890; all I maintain is that so long as it is, unfortunately, in force, the means of complying with the enactment requiring a judicial authority should be sufficiently easy. The procedure is, on the contrary, difficult, harassing, mischievous, and often impracticable. To the friends of the patient, who are already suffering sufficiently from a sad calamity, it is extremely painful. This is even needlessly aggravated by the discourtesy of particular magistrates. Only last week a lady in search of "a magistrate specially appointed under the Lunacy Act to grant orders" was rudely treated, and when the reason assigned for troubling this august functionary was given, namely, that no magistrate in the parish where the patient resided could be procured, the brusque reply was that the patient must wait till he returned home. This was after the certificates had been signed, and would lapse in a week. To advise waiting until these documents have become out of date, and therefore useless, is unfeeling irony.