

ship of the Royal College of Physicians, London; and in 1876 was President of the Medico-Psychological Association, and gave an address at its annual meeting. Dealing with the question of the provision for the insane poor, and offering several important suggestions and reasonings in support, his Presidential Address will long be remembered by those who heard or read it.

To one who had the good fortune to work under him for a time, it is a sad privilege to have the opportunity of writing a few words of him by whose death our Association now suffers a heavy loss.

Dr. Parsey's scientific acquirements were of a high order. When a student, and in early professional life, he laid the foundations of, and built up, a wide and accurate knowledge of his profession; he maintained this throughout life by careful reading and observation, and by a deep interest in, and use of all the advances of medical science. But his tone of mind was judicial. He did not too hastily adopt any new theory or method of practice, but carefully tested it by comparison with the established in science, and by practical trial. Selecting the best in newer and older, he combined and harmonized them in a body of sound scientific knowledge. That he did not place much on permanent record in the literature of the subject in which he was so well skilled, was a loss to all his contemporaries. But he was always ready to impart to his professional brethren the results and teachings of his experience. In pathology his interest was lively; he was shrewd and accurate in diagnosis, quick and skilful to devise and apply remedial measures.

Similar high qualities of mind were evinced also by Dr. Parsey in his administrative functions. The long and successful management of the large asylum in which he passed most of his professional life is evidence of this. And what was true here of the general was true of the particular also; for in dealing with details he was ever of ready resource, skilful in adaptation, judicious in selection.

With his patients, his relations were of a cordial nature, his kindness and goodness of heart conspicuous; and great were his forbearance and tact in dealing with many difficult cases, and never-wearying his thoughtfulness and assiduity in making provision for their better interests and care and cure.

To those who worked under him in any capacity he showed a generous kindness and benevolence of disposition, mingled with a firmness, which made his rule at once successful and agreeable. A considerate or indulgent bearing towards the various members of the staff, however, never relaxed into looseness of control, or permitted of carelessness in duty.

He will long live in the memories and affections of all those who were privileged to know him. His friendships were intimate and cordial. They who knew him best loved him best.

This is scarcely the place to dwell upon his family relations. Yet it is permissible to say how loving and tender were the ties that bound him, in life, to the wife, the daughter, and the son, now left to deplore his loss.

W. J. M.

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#### DR. THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE.

The long and honourable career of this distinguished mental physician—an Honorary Member of our Association—has at last been brought to a close, and, appropriately, on the spot where he has so long laboured.

The proper place for man to die  
Is where man works for man.

It is melancholy to think that we shall no more receive the familiar Annual Report which, with such undeviating regularity made its appearance year after year. These reports were a true reflex of the unceasing care, the unflagging zeal, and the stern devotion to duty which for nearly forty-four years marked the cha-

acter of "the man at the helm." Never were superintendent and asylum more completely one. It was impossible to think of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane without thinking of Dr. Kirkbride; it was equally impossible to think of Dr. Kirkbride without thinking of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

Several years ago when in our American Retrospect we referred to one of Dr. Kirkbride's Reports in which he suggested the propriety of a statue being erected to Dr. Franklin in the grounds of the Asylum, we ventured to express a hope that another would be erected to mark the Committee's appreciation of the prolonged and faithful services of the Superintendent himself. Since his death we have observed the suggestion made that statues should be erected to the memory of both Kirkbride and Ray in Philadelphia. To this proposition we cordially respond, and we should hope that those who in other lands appreciate unselfish worth and a life-long devotion to humanity, will be allowed to unite in this public tribute to two great and good men, intimate friends during life, and not long separated by death.

We have been favoured with the following sketch of Dr. Kirkbride's life, written mainly by Dr. Curwen, of the Warren Asylum, Pennsylvania:—

Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, Physician-in-Chief and Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, died on Sunday night, December 16th, after a protracted illness, at his residence, within the grounds of the Institution which, for over forty years, he had faithfully served.

Dr. Kirkbride's habitually vigorous health sustained a severe shock four years ago in a prolonged illness, from the effects of which he only partially recovered. About two years ago he had a second illness, from which again he rallied, and last winter he was able to resume a considerable portion of his ordinary duties. In the spring he was again, however, prostrated, and never rallied to any hopeful extent. During the last few weeks there have been periods of temporary improvement, and he has even been able to drive in the Hospital grounds. On December 14th he had a severe chill, and gradually relapsed into coma, from which he never rallied.

Dr. Kirkbride was born on July 31, 1809, near Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His ancestor, Joseph Kirkbride, came to this country from the parish of Kirkbride, County of Cumberland, England, with William Penn, being connected with the Society of Friends, as have been his descendants down to the present generation. He received his academical education at Trenton, N.J., and graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania in March, 1832, the subject of his thesis being "Neuralgia." In the following April he was appointed resident physician to the Friends' Asylum for the Insane, in which position he served for one year, when, in March, 1833, he was elected resident physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital, where he remained two years, after which, settling in Philadelphia, he engaged in private practice, devoting himself principally to surgery, and at this time he was physician to the House of Refuge, the Institution for the Blind, and the Magdalen Asylum.

In October, 1840, without solicitation on his part, Dr. Kirkbride was elected Physician-in-Chief and Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, a new institution on the west side of the Schuylkill River, then nearly completed, and to which it was intended to remove the insane from the old hospital at Eighth and Pine Streets. The new hospital was opened on the 1st day of January, 1841, since which time he has had the care and management of it. By constant improvements and additions to the original building, this institution, which was then only capable of receiving a hundred inmates, now accommodates upwards of five hundred. In 1854, the original building having become crowded, Dr. Kirkbride recommended the erection of a new one on the grounds of the institution, which comprised a tract of one hundred and thirteen acres, and he urged the complete separation of the sexes as if in two distinct institutions. He further recommended that the building proposed should be erected through an appeal to the public, which, accordingly, was

made, and with entire success, the building being completed wholly with private contributions, exceeding in the aggregate \$355,000. This new building was a third of a mile distant from the other. It was erected in accordance with his own carefully-prepared plans, and is so admirably adapted to the purposes for which it was intended, that it has been a model for similar buildings which have been subsequently erected. The new building was opened in October, 1859, and since that time the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane has consisted of two separate departments—one for men and one for women—each having a capacity for two hundred and fifty patients, and entirely distinct from each other in all their arrangements, though with the same physician-in-chief and the same Board of managers. The success of this experiment, which he inaugurated, has been complete, and has led to the adoption of the plan in other institutions.

As an authority in mental disease, Dr. Kirkbride enjoyed the highest reputation, and his name was so identified with the great institution of which he was the physician-in-chief, that "Kirkbride's" has become in this country the popularly-used synonym of the English "Bedlam." He was a careful student, and possessed marked executive ability. His faithful devotion to the interests of the institution confided to his care has frequently elicited the admiration of its managers.

Dr. Kirkbride was of square build and medium height, with a firm mouth, penetrating eye, and a charmingly benevolent face, which was expressive of his great modesty, spotless integrity, and rare virtue. He was endowed with a wonderful tact in the management of the insane, and he was able quickly to win the affections of even his most wayward patients, and his forbearing gentleness and wise firmness enabled him to exert the best influences upon all who came under his care.

His writings have given him a high reputation. His "Propositions Relative to the Construction of Hospitals for the Insane," first adopted by the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, has been repeatedly re-affirmed by them, and were published in 1854, with notes and additions, under the title of "The Construction, Organization, and General Arrangement of Hospitals for the Insane," of which a second edition was called for in 1880. In his annual reports Dr. Kirkbride, year by year, discussed at length nearly every subject connected with the treatment and care of the insane, and they constitute a series of great value to the student of mental diseases.

No man in the United States has devoted himself more entirely to the care of the insane than Dr. Kirkbride. From the day of his appointment to the superintendency of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, his whole thought was given to whatever would tend to relieve the mental disorder of those placed in his care, and everything which could in any way assist in that work was laid under tribute from the firm belief he entertained that nothing should be overlooked, for a reason clear to everyone, that small things often have a great influence in turning the current of thought and diverting to happier or more gloomy thoughts, as the incident may itself determine. No one can read the very able, conscientious, and practical reports which have emanated from him during more than forty years without being fully convinced that his whole energy was given to his work; and the results of that work are shown in those reports, and in his work on the "Construction of Hospitals for the Insane," which places the reader in possession of practical conclusions and sound deductions from long experience which can be relied on, while the shifting sands of theory are blown away.

The wonderful changes which have been effected in the last forty years in the treatment of the insane in America may, in great part, be attributed to his labours and his influence on his brethren connected with the different institutions. The amount of restraint used at that early date was greater than even

those who write so much on the subject know, and Dr. Kirkbride's efforts to change that condition of things were earnest and persistent, and while not a believer in absolute non-restraint, he yet held firmly to the opinion, as he did to all that he had formed cautiously and deliberately, that restraint should be used only when the condition of the case, and the benefit of his fellow-patients, really demanded it, or, in other words, on the same principle that a surgeon would apply a splint to a broken limb; and the truth was strongly expressed by Dr. Bucknill, of England, that while Dr. Kirkbride believed in restraint, he rarely used it.

Dr. Kirkbride was one of the founders of "The Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane," and for eight consecutive years was its President. He was also a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, an Honorary Member of the British Medico-Psychological Association, and a member of the American Philosophical Society.

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*Correspondence.*

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

GENTLEMEN,—In Prof. Cleland's rejoinder to my reply, which appeared in the last number of the Journal, he refers the reader to his paper in the July number, and to his previous memoir which it supplements; and he goes on to say that he "suspects that those who pursue this course will have a great advantage over Dr. Mercier." I do not for a moment impute to Dr. Cleland any intentional discourtesy, but the passage I have quoted might mislead a hasty reader into the belief that Dr. Cleland accuses me of the dishonourable course of criticising a paper that I have never read. Against such an interpretation of this passage I am bound to protect myself. My reply concerned only Dr. Cleland's paper in the July number of this Journal; it was not intended as, nor did it pretend to be, an answer to any other paper. As his article was written, as he avows, with the intention of explaining "more fully" his views on the relations of the nervous system to the operations of consciousness, I was under no obligation to go back to his previous utterances. As a matter of fact, I tried to procure a copy of the paper which he read before the British Association in 1870, but as it was not published in the "Report of the Association," I was unable to do so. Had I read that paper, however, I should certainly not have thought it fair to nail a writer to opinions expressed by him thirteen years before. That I read the article to which I did reply, and read it pretty carefully, is, I think, apparent not only from the detailed nature of my reply, but from the fact that in nine pages I have quoted Dr. Cleland's own words no less than twenty times. I feel sure that most of his readers will disagree with Dr. Cleland's opinion that no advantage to science would result from another contribution by him to the controversy; but as to this he is, perhaps, the best judge.

Will you allow me to make another explanation? Dr. Huggard, in his very interesting article on "Definitions of Insanity," quotes my definition as "a failure of the organisation to adjust itself to its environment," and proceeds to demolish it. This, however, is not my definition. I have defined insanity as "a failure of the process of adjustment of the organism to its environment," an expression which carries, to my mind, a meaning quite different from the one that Dr. Huggard ascribes to me. I should now substitute the term "disorder" for "failure."

Feb. 15.

Yours truly,  
CHAS. MERCIER.