

longer or shorter course of treatment, convalescent, and return to the outer world. The restoration of some proves permanent. Their faces are seen no more in the wards. Others suffer relapse, and return as patients. Many old and feeble, or chronic cases, remain, carefully tended and watched over, till their appointed hour comes, and their bodies, if not claimed by their friends, are laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery until the morning of the Resurrection.—*The Churchman's Magazine*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EDUCATION, POSITION, AND PAY OF ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS IN PUBLIC ASYLUMS.

To the Editors of the Journal of Mental Science.

GENTLEMEN,

I observe in the April number of the Journal a letter from one signing himself "An Assistant Medical Officer to a County Asylum, &c.," advocating changes in, amongst other things, the position of assistant medical officers. I quite agree with him in thinking that a preliminary training for the post is necessary, and in thinking that the clinical clerk system is as good as any other, at least until the study of Psychology is insisted on by the examining boards. But when he goes on to say that the senior assistant or the sole assistant should be dubbed Assistant Superintendent, I do not accompany him. He objects to the term "Assistant Medical Officer" because he says it does not include the assistance rendered in the administration department. In like manner I might object to his term which does not include the assistance rendered in the medical department.

But it is not on these grounds that I am writing. To alter the present rank and pay of assistant medical officers would be, I think, to take away much of the good which their position at present affords. No assistant ought, in my opinion, to get more than £150 a year, with board, &c. I get £100, and think myself, with every necessary of life found me, except my clothes, quite as well off as a superintendent with £250. To raise the pay of assistants in asylums to £200 a year and more would, in eyes of men of more experience than the "Assistant Medical Officer, &c.," be a great mistake. Not the smallest evil which it would breed would be to introduce a class of men who would remain all their lives assistants; men of no ambition, who would perform their duties perhaps conscientiously, but with spirits enervated by the routine of twenty years or so in a subordinate position, which the spur of responsibility never goads. As to the position of the assistant medical officer, no rules, however sharply defined, can alter it from what the medical superintendent has privately determined it shall be, and consequently his position really depends entirely on himself. If he wins the confidence of his superior officer he will have as much responsibility and authority as any young man can wish for, and in some cases a great deal more.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

AN ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN.

Guy's Hospital. Clinique on Mental Diseases.—Dr. Thompson Dickson has been appointed *interim* Lecturer on Mental Diseases at Guy's Hospital. The pupils will have the advantage of attending the practice of St. Luke's Hospital, of which Dr. Dickson has recently been elected resident medical superintendent.

Town's Hospital, Glasgow. Clinique on Mental Diseases.—A course of clinical instruction in mental disease will be given during the Summer Session, by Dr. Alexander Robertson, in the City Parochial Asylum. We understand that the accommodation for the insane in this Institution has lately been extended, so that now upwards of two hundred patients can be received. As all forms of insanity are under treatment, students have here a valuable field for observation open to them, in a department which has hitherto been too much cut off from the ordinary branches of medical study. Dr. Alexander Robertson has shown by his published papers on aphasia and other cerebral diseases, that he has made use of his opportunities for minute and accurate observation on the pathology of Insanity, while his "Notes of a Visit to American Asylums," in the April Number of the *Journal of Mental Science*, bears evidence of his familiarity with its general management, and the internal economy of institutions intended for its treatment.—*The Glasgow Medical Journal, May, 1869.*

Appointments.

THE MORISON LECTURES, ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURGH.

The President of the Royal College of Physicians has appointed DR. ARTHUR MITCHELL, Deputy Commissioner in Lunacy, to deliver the six annual lectures on mental diseases for the next three years.

ADAM, C., M.B., C.M., has been appointed Medical Officer to the District Lunatic Asylum for the County Elgin.

ALLAN, C. J., M.B., C.M., has been appointed Visiting Physician of the Gilmour House Lunatic Asylum, Liberton, Edinburgh.

DEAS, P. MAURY, M.D. Edin., Senior Assistant Physician to the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the New Cheshire County Lunatic Asylum. The *Scotsman* says Dr. Deas is the fourteenth assistant who has left this Asylum to become medical superintendent of other asylums in England and Scotland.

DICKSON, J. THOMPSON, M.A.M.B. Cantab., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital for Lunatics.

GILL, H. C., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A., Resident Clinical Assistant at the Bethlem Royal Hospital, has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Nottingham County and Borough Lunatic Asylum.

KING, T. R., M.D. Edin., has been appointed Junior Assistant Physician to the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the Insane.

MORRISON, W. F., L.R.C.P. Ed. has been appointed Assistant Medical Superintendent of the Fife and Kinross District Asylum, Cupar.

Books, Pamphlets, &c., received for Review, 1869.

(Continued from *Journal of Mental Science, April, 1869.*)

A History of European Morals from Augustus to Charlemagne. By W. E. H. Lecky, M.A. 2 Vols. 8vo. *This work will be fully reviewed in the next number (October) of this Journal.*

Eleventh Annual Report of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty. Edinburgh: Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Thomas Constable. 1869.