

4.—*Letter from the Secretary of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Honorary Secretary of the Medico-Psychological Association.*

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,
19, Whitehall Place, S.W.,
January 9th, 1883.

SIR,

I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of 20th December with copy of a communication addressed to the Prime Minister; and to say that should an opportunity offer they will gladly do what they can to promote the object of placing the pensions of the Medical Officers of County and Borough Asylums upon a more certain and satisfactory basis.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
CHAS. SP. PERCIVAL,
Secretary.

HENRY RAYNER, M.D.,
Hon. Secretary of the
Medico-Psychological Association.

Copies of this letter have also been sent to the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Dilke, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, and to the Right Honorable H. C. E. Childers, M.P., now Chancellor of the Exchequer.

5.—*Letter from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Honorary Secretary of the Medico-Psychological Association.*

11, Downing Street, Whitehall,
1 February, 1883.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge your letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, enclosing, by desire of the Parliamentary Committee of the Medico-Psychological Association, a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Gladstone in December last, with reference to the financial relations existing, since the Parliamentary grant of 1874, between the Government and the County and Borough Pauper Lunatic Asylums.

Your Committee may feel assured that the circumstances to which they drew attention, and their suggestions, will receive the careful consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
J. M. CARMICHAEL.

HENRY RAYNER, Esq., M.D.,
Honorary Secretary,
Medico-Psychological Association.

APPENDIX A.

Table showing the Sums paid from the Consolidated Fund for the Maintenance of Pauper Lunatics 1875-82 (Eight Years).

YEARS.	ENGLAND AND WALES.			SCOTLAND.			IRELAND.			TOTAL.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1875	337,126	6	0	59,483	1	0	69,948	0	0	466,557	7	0
1876	339,113	4	0	62,637	15	5	77,907	3	0	479,658	2	5
1877	380,593	6	0	65,470	1	0	80,380	8	0	426,443	15	0
1878	379,968	14	0	68,533	10	0	82,053	16	0	530,556	0	0
1879	394,483	11	6	71,272	18	6	84,810	8	0	550,566	18	0
1880	406,047	19	2	73,833	18	11	85,841	0	0	565,722	18	1
1881	418,632	0	0	76,856	5	6	87,250	4	0	582,738	9	6
Estimate for 1882	433,500 (estimate)			80,000 (estimate)			90,000 (estimate)			603,500 (estimate)		

NOTE.—In addition to these totals, £164,772 6s. 0d. was paid to the Unions in England and Wales for the half-year ending September, 1874. For Ireland, £55,692 was voted in 1874; but not being expended, was repaid to the Exchequer.

APPENDIX B.

Table showing the Average Weekly Expenditure in the County Lunatic Asylums from the Union and County Rates respectively with the Proposed Re-adjustment of the same by the use of the 4s. Grant.

	Weekly Amount.	Reduction by re-adjustment of 4s. grant.	Remaining Charge to Union Maintenance Rate.	Remaining Charge to County Rate.	REMARKS.
1.—Charged to Union Maintenance Rate—					
Salaries and Wages	2s. 3d.	2s. 3d.	none.		By the payment of the 4s. grant to the County Financial Boards, and by the re-adjustment of the expenditure suggested by the Medico-Psychological Association, the average Union Maintenance Rate of the County Lunatic Asylums would be reduced from 9s. 6d. to 7s. 3d., while the charge on the County Rate for superannuation and repairs would be entirely paid; a definite and immediate relief to the landed interest.
Provisions	4s. 6d.	none.	4s. 6d.		
Clothing.....	8d.	none.	8d.		
House Necessaries, Fuel, Light, Washing, &c.	1s. 0d.	none.	1s. 0d.		
Medicine, Wine, Spirits, &c. ...	2d.	none.	2d.		
Furniture, Bedding, &c.	11d.	none.	11d.		
Total Union Maintenance Rate...	9s. 6d.	2s. 3d.	7s. 3d.		
2.—Charged to County Rate—					
Superannuation Allowances ...	9d.	9d.	...	none.	
Repairs, &c., of Fabric	1s. 0d.	1s. 0d.	...	none.	
Total Charge on County Rate.....	1s. 9d.	1s. 9d.	...	none.	

PROPOSED REPRINT OF SCOT'S "DISCOVERIE OF WITCHCRAFT."

[We gladly draw attention to this proposed reprint, and heartily wish it success. The facts speak for themselves. Those who are willing to assist Dr. Nicholson's praiseworthy object, will most effectually do so by requesting him to add their names to the list of subscribers.—Eds.]

Reginald Scot, the author of the "Discoverie of Witchcraft," first published in 1584, was on this subject over a hundred years in advance of his age; the first contender against the reality of witchcraft in England, and, Wierus being the first, the second in Europe. His book is also of interest, because, in confuting the opinions of his day, he necessarily gives them. Thirdly, he was greatly read at the time. Among others by Shakespeare, Middleton, King James, and S. Harsnet, afterwards Archbishop of York. That Shakespeare read it is, I think, shown by at least two passages; and James' Demonology was brought forth against—"the damnable opinions of two, principally in our age, whereof the one called Scot, an Englishman, is not ashamed in publicke print to denie, that there can be such a thing as Witchcraft: and so maintains the old error of the Sadducees in denying of spirits. [An odd allegation against one whose tractate, 'A Discourse of Devils and Spirits,' was printed as a part of his 'Witchcraft,' and with a continuous pagination.] The other called Wierus a German."

From these causes and from its rarity, I would assay the reprinting of it. But a book then in advance of its age may, by most, be considered behind ours, and few are interested in old world wizardry, any more—perhaps less—than in the Hieroglyphics of Egypt, though not a few are in the so-called Spiritualism, the modern re-development of witchdom. This being the case, and my own means unable to risk a republication, I therefore—though opposed as a rule to limited issues—must restrict myself to the number of my subscribers, fixing my minimum at 100, and making it a necessary condition that the book be paid for on delivery.

If possible the reprint will be from the first edition, but this—indeed all—are so scarce, that I have as yet failed to obtain even the loan of a copy. From personal collation I can however testify, that the first (1584) and second (1654) editions are identical, beyond such differences as —*ly* for —*lie*, and the like. Indeed, the errata noted on a blank space in the first have been, as a rule, corrected in the second. It is worth noting also that the first edition was the only one that appeared during the author's lifetime. Whichever be used, the reprint will be thoroughly collated with both, and will be a faithful copy. Copies of the very full but differing title pages of both will be given, and the specimen pages opposite may be taken as a sample of the type, size of page, width of margins, and paper that will be employed, the last named being the "toned paper" adopted by Ruskin. Any subscriber can, however, have white hand-made, for its actual difference in price; though, in my opinion, printing on ribbed paper is as unpleasant to the eye as print on the rippling of a stony brook. Glossarial notes as well as a few others will be added. Exclusive of these, the number of pages will be, so far as I can judge, rather over 570, those in the second edition being 441. The copies will be issued in a stout paper wrapper, that each may bind his according to his own taste. The price, should there not be more than 100 subscribers, will not exceed £2 2s., it not being my intention to seek for more than a slight recompence for my time and trouble. A larger list of subscribers will therefore diminish the cost of each copy.

Should this reprint meet with success, I would also gladly reprint James I.'s small counter-work, 84 pages, in the 1603 edition—consulted by Shakespeare before writing his *Macbeth*—collating the editions from 1597 to that of the Bishop of Winton's in 1616. But at present I only mention this.

BRINSLEY NICHOLSON, M.D.,

306, Goldhawk Road, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

P.S.—The editions of 1665 and 1695 contain some additional curious matter by other hands. These will be inserted in their places.