

To this genial record we have only to add that Dr. Petit has been twenty-three years Medical Superintendent of the Sligo Asylum, and between thirty and forty an Irish asylum officer altogether.

MONAGHAN ASYLUM.

From the *Anglo-Celtic* newspaper of February 25th, 1905, published in Cavan, we extract the following account of certain proceedings at the February meeting of the Joint Committee of Management of the Monaghan and Cavan District Asylum. Through considerations of space we have here and there omitted matters that did not seem essential, indicating such omissions by dots.

"THE CHARGE AGAINST THE ENGINEER.

"A report was forwarded by the Inspectors of Lunacy, which stated:—On the 8th February, 1905, the inspector of lunatics held an inquiry on oath at the Monaghan District Asylum into a charge made against Mr. Walter Brydon, the engineer, of having, as alleged, made a criminal assault on a female patient named Sarah Beatty. . . . Mr. Chambers, K.C. (instructed by Mr. John Gillespie, solicitor), appeared on behalf of Mr. Brydon, and Mr. J. C. R. Lardner, solicitor, appeared on behalf of Nurse Bridget Holland. . . . The matter was first brought under notice by the Roman Catholic Chaplain, who stated, confidentially, on the 17th January, to the Resident Medical Superintendent and the Head Nurse, that he had been informed that on a day in December the engineer and patient, Sarah Beatty, had been together in a dormitory of No. 4 Division under circumstances indicating that immoral conduct had taken place between them. The reverend gentleman made it perfectly clear that he expressed no opinion whatever as to the truth or otherwise of the allegation, but stated that he considered it his duty to inform the Resident Medical Superintendent of the matter with the view of having it investigated. The Resident Medical Superintendent, therefore, interrogated the nurses of the division where the patient was located, but could not obtain any evidence in support of the charge, or any information which he considered sufficient to justify him in reporting the matter to the committee or to the inspectors. No further action was taken in the matter, perhaps partly in consequence of Dr. Taylor being incapacitated from duty through illness. On the 27th January he made further inquiries, as the result of which he felt it incumbent on him to consult two members of the committee who reside near the asylum, with the view of deciding whether any steps should be taken. At this stage the matter was brought under the notice of the inspectors by a communication received on the 28th January, and signed "J. Clarke, Glasslough Street, Monaghan." Two letters from the inspectors thus addressed were, however, returned through the post marked, "not known; opened by J. Clarke; not for me." In consequence of the Resident Medical Superintendent's report on the allegations contained in the letter signed "J. Clarke," the inspectors felt it their duty to hold an inquiry on oath regarding the matter. At the inquiry the only direct evidence tendered in support of the charge was that of Nurse Holland, and this evidence is, in the opinion of the inspectors, altogether unworthy of credence.

"The report having reviewed the evidence, stated that Nurse Holland admitted in cross-examination by Mr. Chambers that her previous statements to the Resident Medical Superintendent were lies, and that she would not hesitate to make false statements to her superior officers when not on oath. Mr. Brydon, who is over sixty years of age, has been almost thirty-six years in the institution, and he has always borne an excellent character, denied that there was any foundation whatever for the charge.

"The report went on to state that:—It is a significant fact that the date first mentioned as that on which the occurrence took place, viz., the 4th December, was a Sunday, a day on which Mr. Brydon was not in the wards at all after 10 o'clock a.m. If, as Nurse Holland swore, no notice was taken of the matter by the charge nurse, it seems extraordinary that Holland did not at the time carry her complaint to the chaplain or one of the superior officers, as she was bound to

do by the rules for the management of the asylum. It would appear that there is some ill-feeling amongst the officials of the institution in consequence of reports having been made against some of the attendants by Mr. Brydon's wife in her capacity as gatekeeper, but there is no necessity for the inspectors to enter on the consideration of the reasons which might explain the bringing forward of the infamous charge which formed the subject of the inquiry, as, in their opinion, there was absolutely no evidence on which reliance could be placed, brought forward in support of the charge against Mr. Brydon. In conclusion, the inspectors would point out that it is for the committee to consider whether Nurse Holland, who, on her own admission, is capable of such faithlessness in the discharge of her duties and untrustworthiness in her statements, is a proper person to be left in charge of so helpless a class as the insane. The inspectors have no hesitation in expressing their opinion that she is entirely unfitted for the post she occupies." [Here the report, as given by our contemporary, ends, and the discussion of the matter by the Committee proceeds.]

"Rev. Mr. Davidson said they ought to give some expression of their opinion, not merely in regard to this nurse, but they should also express their opinion on the entire case, and assure that unfortunate engineer, who was driven, he was sure, nearly to madness and suicide by these infamous accusations, of their continuous confidence in his integrity and morality. It was perfectly clear from the evidence that a fearful conspiracy was entered into by some persons to ruin him, and, except they took some action to put down things like that, they did not know who would be the next victim, or who would be the unfortunate official of that institution who would have a similar charge brought against him in the future. He had the unfortunate privilege of listening to the greater part of the evidence, and he thought the charges that were made by this nurse were concocted on the whole. He proposed the following resolution:—"The Committee express their great satisfaction that the inspectors, after a very careful inquiry, have pronounced Mr. Brydon, the engineer, clear of the infamous charge brought against him. They are delighted that the asylum has thus been cleared of the great scandal which would otherwise have attached to it; and they put on record their confidence in the official in question, who has faithfully served this institution for thirty-six years without any previous complaints." He moved the resolution in justice to the poor man.

"Mr. M'Carren would like to know what conspiracy was entered into against the engineer. Rev. Mr. Davidson—His wife is the gate-keeper, and she reports any person coming in under the influence of drink. We know ourselves she is very unpopular. Mr. Harman thought there should be a rigid stop put to drink in the institution. It was a curse in the institution. That was one of his reasons for voting against increase of salaries there. Mr. M'Manus asked Dr. Taylor what had previously been the character of the nurse who preferred the charges against the engineer. Dr. Taylor—She has been a very short time in the asylum. I have nothing to say to her, and she was never reported to me for any offence.

"Mr. Mullen said it was unprofessional of Mr. Gillespie to say that he (Mr. Mullen) had anything to do with the letter signed John Clarke. . . . Dr. Taylor neglected his duty in not reporting the matter to the Committee, as he had as much evidence when he sent for Mr. Trainor and myself. . . . You tried to shift the responsibility of the case on myself and Mr. Trainor. . . . Mr. McManus said if the Committee had heard the case it would never have gone to the inspectors. Several charges of drunkenness were brought on that day month before the Committee, and they dismissed them all. They would have hesitated before calling on the inspectors to hold an inquiry. Dr. Taylor hardly discharged his duty to the Committee in a proper manner. . . .

"Mr. Mullen.—I move that the report be marked read. Mr. Smith—I second it. Rev. Mr. Davidson said that he felt constrained by a sense of duty to move that the recommendation of the inspectors be carried out with regard to Nurse Holland, as she admitted that she would not hesitate to tell lies to her superior officers, and then how could she be relied on to tell the truth in future. Rev. Mr. Davidson further referred to the statement made with reference to her on the report of the inspectors. The Chairman seconded the amendment. . . .

"On a division the amendment was defeated, the Chairman and Rev. Mr.

Davidson only voting for it. Mr. Mullen's motion was then carried and the report of the inspectors marked read. . . . The matter then ended."

COMPLIMENTARY PRESENTATION TO DR. IRELAND.

ON the afternoon of 4th March a large number of Dr. Ireland's friends met him in the library of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, and presented him with an illuminated address and a sum of money. The President of the College (Dr. John Playfair) was called to the chair on the motion of Dr. Joseph Bell.

Dr. JOHN THOMSON, who acted as Secretary and Treasurer of the fund, read apologies for absence from Sir William T. Gairdner, Dr. Needham, Dr. Shuttleworth, Professor Chiene, and others.

Dr. CLOUSTON then made the presentation in a happy speech. Dr. Clouston said that until Dr. Ireland took up the work the subject of developmental defects of the human brain in idiocy and imbecility did not attract much interest in this country. Dr. Ireland had, by his industry and intellectual power, advanced its boundaries, and put it on a far higher scientific basis than it had ever been before. Dr. Clouston concluded by reading the address, which is as follows:

"On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of your medical graduation, and in token of our admiration of your half-century of strenuous work, we desire to offer you our hearty congratulations, and to ask your acceptance of the accompanying gift. You entered your profession at an epoch when modern medicine was laying its foundations on a scientific basis. Your teachers in the University of Edinburgh were men of the highest gifts, and, catching their spirit, you have yourself worked hard for the advancement of medicine and the abatement of human suffering in many important ways. Severely wounded at the outset of your career in gallantly doing your duty during the Indian mutiny, and suffering from the effects of the wound ever since, you have not taken life easily or spared yourself the fatigue of special brain effort. In literature, in science, and in history you have made your mark on your time. You have opened up a new path in biography by your application of medico-psychology and studies in heredity in the elucidation of the lives of men who have made history. Showing how well you hit the mark, one of those studies of an Emperor of Russia was excluded from circulation in that country. These studies were not only scientific, but were also vivid and interesting to all intelligent readers. *The Blot upon the Brain* and *Through the Ivory Gate* will, we feel assured, hand down your name to coming generations.

"In that department of medicine which you have made specially your own you have built up a world-wide reputation. *The Mental Affections of Children* is our standard work on developmental defects of the mind. Combined with your practical work in this department at Larbert, that book makes the profession of medicine and humanity your debtor. Your original papers on mental and nervous disease, and on many other departments of medicine, scattered in many journals, are all of much interest and value. Your numerous translations and abstracts of important papers in foreign journals have been of great use to your readers, and showed that you were willing to undertake even the drudgery of science on their behalf. Many foreign scientific societies have shown their appreciation of your work by conferring on you their honorary membership.

"Your life has been one of steady effort. Your stores of knowledge, through your extensive reading, have always been willingly placed at the disposal of your professional brethren. To few of their profession could they go with such a certainty of help for valuable reference.

"Above all those merits, your personal character, combining modesty and genial humour, earnestness, and truthfulness, have won our respect and affection. We desire most cordially to express to you our wishes for a long and happy life of still further usefulness. We believe that you will always enjoy the happiness of the man who 'keeps himself simple, good, sincere, grave, unaffected, a friend of justice, considerate, and strenuous in duty.'"

Dr. IRELAND, in reply, said that he found himself in a very difficult position, although he noted that there was no reference to his faults and failings in what