

## PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

*Circulars by the Commissioners in Lunacy.*

## I.—LUNACY. SINGLE PATIENTS.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY,  
19, WHITEHALL PLACE; *October 10th, 1864.*

THE Commissioners in Lunacy having reason to believe that many persons of unsound mind are illegally received or taken charge of, and that the law relating to insane persons not in asylums or licensed houses, but under individual care as "Single patients," is extensively violated, desire to draw the attention of medical practitioners and others to the provisions of the 8th and 9th Victoria, cap. 100, sec. 90, as amended by the 8th section of 16 and 17 Vic., cap. 96.

By these enactments no person (unless he derives no profit from the charge or be a committee appointed by the Lord Chancellor) can receive one patient in any unlicensed house, neither can any person take care or charge of any one patient as a lunatic or alleged lunatic without the same form of order and medical certificates as are required upon the admission of a patient into a licensed house, copies of which are to be sent to the Commissioners in Lunacy, together with other particulars, which are fully stated in printed instructions to be obtained on application at the Office of the Commissioners, 19, Whitehall Place.

By the first-mentioned Act every person neglecting to comply with the requirements of the statute is liable to prosecution for a misdemeanour.

By the interpretation clause the word "lunatic" is declared to mean "every insane person, and every person being an idiot or lunatic, or of unsound mind."

According to the law as laid down by the judges of the superior courts, the provisions and penalties of the Act apply to all cases of insane persons taken or retained under care or charge in unlicensed houses, whether or not they were of unsound mind when first received.

The Commissioners will feel it their duty in cases of violation of the law hereafter brought under their notice, to proceed by indictment against the offending parties.

By order of the Board,  
W. C. SPRING RICE, Secretary.