

THE STEWART SCHOLARSHIP IN MENTAL DISEASE, TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

Very little appears to be known in England of this valuable prize in Psychological Medicine. We are informed that the late Dr. Stewart, of Lucan, whose name is associated with the Institution for Idiots at Palmerston, left a considerable sum of money, for the encouragement of the study of insanity, to Trinity College, Dublin, and to the Royal University. The two Universities have combined, and have founded a scholarship, of £40 a year, tenable for three years, to be shortly competed for.

The following are some of the articles of the Scheme, issued pursuant to the Decree of the Master of the Rolls, bearing date July 11th, 1882, and the Rulings of the 21st day of March and 23rd of April, 1883, for the distribution of the Residuary Estate of the late Dr. Henry Hutchinson Stewart, of Dublin, long a member of our Association.

One medical scholarship, at least, shall be awarded for proficiency, to be ascertained by competitive examination in the subject of the treatment of mental diseases, according to a course to be prescribed by the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity College.

Each medical scholar elected for proficiency in the subject of the treatment of mental diseases shall, as the condition of retaining such scholarship, be bound, within six months of his election to such scholarship, to proceed to some recognised institution for the treatment of mental diseases, to be approved of by the Board of Trinity College, and there continue as either a resident or outdoor pupil for such period, not less than six months, and under such conditions as the Provost and Senior Fellows shall by a general regulation prescribe, and on failure to observe such condition the said scholarship shall, in the discretion of the said Provost and Senior Fellows, be liable to be declared vacant.

No person shall compete for a scholarship to be awarded for proficiency in the treatment of mental diseases but within two years after he shall have graduated for a Bachelor of Medicine.

The above regulations refer to Trinity College. Those relating to the Royal University are identical, substituting the "Senate" of this University for the "Board of Trinity College."

No student shall compete for the scholarship a second time.

Every candidate must hold the M.B. of the Royal University and Trinity College, Dublin.

An M.B. of Trinity College cannot compete for a scholarship in the Royal University, nor *vice versa*.

The next examination for the Stewart Scholarship in Mental Diseases of the value of £40 a year, tenable for three years, will take place in Dublin on October 20 and following days.

For particulars apply to the Secretary of the Royal University of Ireland, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin.

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WAS BAINES MAD, DRUNK, OR DELIRIOUS ?

[We are indebted to Dr. Cassidy, Medical Superintendent of the Lancaster Asylum, for the following note on the case of Baines, referred to by Dr. Savage in his article (p. 23); and regret that it came to hand too late to appear among the original articles.—EDS.]

Baines murdered his wife on Christmas Day. When I first saw him, at the instance of the Treasury officials, on January 8th, he was calm, and *apparently* rational. He spoke of his wife, however, in a rather childish way; said that

she used to beat him; that, owing to his lameness, he could not get after her, or out of her way, as the case might be; that she deceived him, and went with other men; that on Christmas Eve she brought a man into the house; that he went to bed and left them together; that shortly after he heard them engaged in obscene conversation, too filthy to repeat, outside his door, which was partly open; and that, on looking to see, he found them committing, or attempting, an act of adultery on the stairs, two of his young children being within view at the foot of the stairs; that they left the house together, or soon after one another, after some words; and that he then went to bed and slept till morning, seeing no more of his wife that night. This story he adhered to, and positively asserted, when I twice subsequently examined him.

As a matter of fact, however, as shown by the evidence, no such thing ever took place. Baines had been for many years—from 20 to 25 years—a hard drinker; and had been drinking steadily from last June to December, never in all that time quite sober. He had had several acute attacks of delirium tremens within the last three or four years, and was often troubled with hallucinations, restlessness, and tremors, without becoming acutely delirious. When sober, he was described to me as a quiet, sensible sort of man; but under the influence of drink became wild and furious. At such times, and not at others, he had the belief that his wife was unfaithful to him; or, at all events, this belief became prominent then, and took an active shape. Thus he complained of her conduct, taunted her about other men, watched and dogged her sometimes for weeks, with a view to catching her in an act of infidelity. During one such access of "acute suspicion" he bought a pistol with which to shoot himself; on another he swallowed sixpennyworth of laudanum and some horse-powder; on another he secreted a razor in the chimney, and several times he attacked her with weapons. Baines did not tell me these facts himself; I ascertained them by going to Barrow and making inquiries. When questioned about them at my third interview, he said, "I felt so miserable about the way she was going on, I wanted to make an end of it and kill myself."

At this period he still asserted that his story of what took place on Christmas Eve was "Gospel truth." He admitted that, instead of sleeping all night, he might have got up and come downstairs once or twice to see if his wife had come in. I formed the impression that his mind was really confused as to the events of that period, and that he could not recollect clearly what took place. He said if his son swore it, it was most likely true. He admitted, when pressed, that this was the only occasion when he had ocular proof of his wife's infidelity. In reality, the night was spent in sleeplessness, quarrelling, and excitement. Young Baines said his father was up and downstairs all night, that he beat himself with a stick, and ran with his head against the wall.

In the morning all the observations concur in this, that Baines was full of what he supposed had occurred during the night. He was "roving wild" when telling the witness Gardner all about it half-an-hour before the crime. He told his wife when she was dying, and the officers when they were apprehending him. Was this the hallucination of a drunken man, or was it that constant wandering of the mind which constitutes delirium? Does it not rather suggest the perversion of a mind which, weakened by drink, has become deluded from constant dwelling on this one theme? The murder clearly was done either from a sudden impulse of fury or deliberately (as he himself stated), and, in that case, from a fixed and definite motive. If from motive, was the motive a sane or an insane one? Are the circumstances of the crime most consistent with intoxication, delirium, or delusion? He obtains and ostentatiously sharpens two knives, which his chums take from him, half unknowingly, perceiving that he is not to be trusted with such weapons. A third time he secures and sharpens his knife, and the servant girl from whom he got it, after detailing her conversation with him, says "he seemed quite sensible at that time;" but ten minutes or less afterwards, John Evans, in whose house the murder was committed, says (in a letter to me dated January 11th), "I saw

Baines going out up the street about half-an-hour before the murder. He seemed right enough then, but when he came in our house to his wife he seemed nervous and excited and trembling; his whole frame seemed as if he was suffering from delirium tremens." In these two episodes I see the cunning and secretiveness, the suppressed excitement and ferocity of the homicidal lunatic, rather than the uncalculating passion of a drunkard. Such conduct I consider as quite consistent with his former irrational concealing of a razor, spying upon his wife, &c. His own statement to me as to the act is worth repeating: "I never intended to kill her. I thought I would give her a good fright, but when I got near her something came over me, and I could not help doing it. I don't rightly know how it happened. I was not master of myself." Thirty hours after he began to grow delirious, and for some days was acutely excited. The minute description given me by the officer in charge of the prison of his symptoms during the stage of acute excitement seemed to point to a curious mixture of the terrors and hallucinations of delirium tremens and delusions of a more purely mental character. He proclaimed, as a piece of news, that he had killed his wife, and had been let off on payment of a fine, &c.; that his inside had been taken out, and that half of his member had been cut off, &c. He was also very noisy. Was this delirium tremens pure and simple, and did it originate *de novo* a day and a half after his apprehension? My own answer to both of these questions would be in the negative. I fully satisfied myself by personally examining the witnesses that he had been more or less subacutely delirious for a fortnight before Christmas, and that for three or four nights before, he had not had his clothes off, and had hardly slept at all.

As regards the first part of the question, my view was, and is, that inherited neurosis made all the difference between his attack and ordinary delirium tremens. Baines's maternal grandfather, and several other relatives on the same side, and in the same generation, were imbecile or melancholic, though none were confined in an asylum. The important witness who was to have given evidence of this at the trial was there on the day, but too hopelessly drunk to be presentable; and this leads me to remark that there is strong evidence of inherited drink propensity on the other side of Baines's family.

Dr. Bastian's opinion was that all the symptoms and all the effects mentioned were due to intoxication and to jealousy; and Dr. Rogers and Dr. Wallis, who saw him after the trial, appear to have agreed with that opinion.

Had I, however, thought that Baines suffered from delirium tremens only, I would have expressed my conviction that that, in a medical sense, constituted unsoundness of mind; but when I look through my case-books and notes of cases of drink-caused insanity, I see Baines's case staring me in the face from nearly every page. Of all the men of this class admitted last year into this asylum there is hardly one to be found where homicidal or suicidal propensity, or both, associated frequently with insane jealousy, and delusions as to wives or mistresses, does not appear in the medical certificates as one of its principal bases. My view of all these cases, including Baines's, is that they are always (in habitual drunkards at all events) borderland cases. When drunk they are mad drunk, and continued drinking leads them to fixed mental aberrations, and leaves them in an asylum or on the scaffold. Baines was hanged on Feb. 9th.

*Postscript.*—I have before me a collection of Baines's letters written whilst in prison. The following is taken from one dated January 13th, the day after the second examination before the magistrates, and appears to have been prompted by the evidence then given by his eldest son, to whom he refers as Jack. It is addressed to the supposed paramour. "There is nothing so sure that I saw it and heard the words used. Ask Jack was Alfred and Thomas (his two young children) up when he came home, and write and tell me, for I heard them and saw them as plain as I saw you and her. Now, Bob, I adjure you to tell me the truth with you or against you. I shall pray for you till I

get an answer that you may be guided to tell the truth, as I have been guided to ask you if it is a delusion (note, he had heard me call it a delusion before the magistrates). If I have taken the poor woman's life innocent may the Lord have mercy on my soul, and the poor innocent soul that has gone up. Till yesterday, or rather to-day, it would have been dangerous for you and me to have met. As I am, to-day my sufferings are only beginning. Her guilt was holding me up. When I thought about it I could immediately answer myself, feeling justified doing it." . . . "Answer all truthfully, as God will be your judge some day." To my mind this indicates that about this time three weeks of abstinence, rest, and regular exercise were beginning to have their natural effect, and his mental balance was being restored. D. M. C.

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*Obituary.*

DR. JOHN W. SAWYER.

Dr. Sawyer recently visited this country, and to those who became acquainted with him in connection with his inspection of asylums it will be a cause of great regret to learn that so soon after his return to America his life was cut short, and his useful career as Medical Superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, Providence, Rhode Island. He succeeded the celebrated Dr. Ray in 1867. During the nearly twenty years which have elapsed since his appointment he had discharged the duties of his office to the entire satisfaction of all concerned; and those who have visited this institution can bear witness to the proofs of his administrative capacity and the kindness of his heart. The trustees of the hospital speak the simple truth when they say that "his manners were gentle and winning; his character was marked by singular modesty, united with gentle firmness of purpose, by rare good judgment, by manly independence, by self-denying benevolence, by unflinching devotion to the duties he was called upon to perform. He has died at a moment the most unexpected, of which those who loved him had received no premonition, and when his plans were broadest and his hopes were highest, in the full meridian of his usefulness and his renown. The trustees mourn his loss, not alone as a loss of an accomplished and faithful superintendent, eminent in his profession and honoured in the community, but also as the loss of a personal friend, endeared to them by the graces which adorn his character, and by the noble and generous services which filled his daily life."

Dr. Sawyer was born at Danvers, Mass., Nov. 5, 1834, and received his medical education at Hartford University, where he graduated as Doctor of Medicine in 1859. He filled the office of assistant-physician at the Butler Hospital for the first two years, under Dr. Ray. After practice in Boston for a short time, he became assistant-superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane at Madison, Wisconsin, where he remained during the six years preceding his appointment at Providence. About ten days before his death Dr. Sawyer attended a maniacal case with a view of a removal to the Butler Hospital. The patient, a strong, athletic young man, clutched the doctor by the throat, and it required the policemen in attendance to drag him off. Although Dr. Sawyer never mentioned the accident to his physician, there appears to be no doubt that it was the immediate cause of his death. The cellular tissue of the neck was infiltrated, involving the submaxillary glands, which had previously been somewhat enlarged. It became necessary to perform tracheotomy, but death followed a few minutes after the operation, Dec. 14, 1885, at the age of 51. His loss will be