

Obituary.

M. DUMESNIL.

We record with regret the death of Dr. Dumesnil, for many years one of the principal editors of the "*Annales Medico-Psychologiques*," and devoted chiefly to the department of the English literature of our subject.

Dr. Edouard J. B. Dumesnil was born at Constance on December 1, 1812, and was therefore just completing his 72nd year. After distinguishing himself at the Lycée of his native city, he proceeded to Paris for his medical studies. He passed with success the Concours for the position of "*Internat des Hospitiaux*," and remained a long time as an interne attached to the service of Orfila, Lisfranc, Martin-Solon, &c., in which position he carried off several medals in various Concours, and particularly one from the Société de Médecine of Bordeaux in 1839.

Having married, he gave up a career which seemed opening for him in Paris, and sought a position in the provinces. The question of the Treatment of the Insane in France was at this period just becoming mooted, and competent persons were required for the reorganization of the Asylums and other Establishments for the Insane. Dr. Dumesnil was selected as one eminently qualified to fulfil the duties of reorganization, and in 1847 he was appointed Medical Superintendent (*Directeur Médicin en Chef*) of the Asylum of St. Dizier (*Haute Marne*). Among those chosen on the same occasion were men whose names are very familiar to the whole of our specialty, Foville (père), Parchappe, Ferrus, Marcée, Morel, Renaudin, and others.

In 1852 he was removed to Dijon, in which appointment he had for assistant (interne) Dr. Legrand-du-Saulle, with whom he maintained a close intimacy and friendship ever after.

Lastly, in 1858 he was called upon to preside over the foundation of a new asylum for the very important Department of Seine Inférieure, at Quatres Mares, near Rouen, of which asylum he continued to be Medical Superintendent for the following 14 years. In this post he was, unlike many holding the office of physician to asylums in France, the administrator as well as Chief Medical Officer of the establishment. He conducted the duties of his office with great zeal and solicitude—taking equal interest in every department, being, in fact, at the same time its physician, financier, architect, and agriculturist, &c. Every detail, in fact, came immediately under his personal attention. The asylum at Quatres Mares, besides resembling our English County Asylums in being devoted to the poor, has besides a separate wing for private patients, and the management of this department added considerable complication to the general duties of the establishment.

Having acquired a well-merited reputation in these various duties, professional and social, he became entrusted with other official matters of civil character, which added considerably to his social position as well to his labours. He was elected President of the Academy of Rouen, and appointed a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

On his retirement from his office of Physician in Chief at Quatres Mares in 1872, he was made *Inspecteur-Général* of Asylums and Prisons. He continued to occupy this office during eight years, when he was compelled to resign, having attained, according to the rules of the French laws, the limit of age for public employment. On his resignation of his official connection, he took up his residence in Paris. He was promoted about this time to be *Officier de la Légion d'Honneur*. He was also elected President of the Société Médico-Psychologique, and he took much interest in every question connected with lunacy. He continued to be one of the principal collaborateurs of the "*Annales Psychologiques*;" the section of the review of the English journals and literature being his chosen department, and he was occupied in this duty the day previous to his

fatal attack. He had been ailing a few days only, when he was seized with the symptoms of embolism.

Dr. Dumesnil was well acquainted with English, and took much interest in English views on insanity. He visited the chief English Asylums in 1860, and thus became known to many members of the Association. He was extremely well read on all subjects. He was the author of several original articles. His inaugural thesis on affections of the bladder has been often referred to. He wrote also a memoir, entitled "Sur les Aliénés Alcooliques." He was one of the authors of the official report of 1877 upon the state of asylums in France.

He was always courteous, kind, hospitable, and a warm-hearted friend.

W. H. O. S.

Appointments.

BRAINE, G. M. P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., appointed Second Assistant Medical Officer to the Worcester County and City Asylum.

COOMBS, W. GODWIN, M.D., appointed Resident Medical Superintendent of the Eastern Counties' Asylum for Idiots, Colchester.

DENNING, C. ERNEST, L.K.Q.C.P.L., L.R.C.S.L., appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer to the Salop and Montgomery County Asylum, Shrewsbury.

DODDS, W. J., M.D., D.Sc., appointed Assistant Medical Superintendent of the Montrose Royal Asylum.

DOUZY, J. H., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.Lond., appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer, and Deputy Superintendent of the Worcester County and City Asylum.

DUNN, THOS., M.B., appointed Assistant Medical Officer of the Woodilee Asylum, Lenzie.

FIELDEN, W. E., M.D.Lond., appointed Assistant Medical Officer of the Asylum for Idiots, Earlswood, Redhill.

HALE, CHAS. J., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.Lond., appointed Junior Assistant Medical Officer of the Salop and Montgomery County Asylum.

HALL, B., M.B.Lond., M.R.C.S., appointed Second Assistant Medical Officer of the Middlesex County Asylum, Banstead.

JELLY, F. ADOLPHUS, M.B., C.M.Ed., appointed Assistant Medical Officer of the Wonford House Asylum, Exeter.

LEWIS, W. BEVAN, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., appointed Medical Superintendent of the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield, *vice* Dr. Major, resigned.

MARTIN, JAS. P., M.R.C.S., appointed Junior Assistant Medical Officer Wilts County Asylum, Devizes.

MCWILLIAM, ALEX., M.B., C.M.Aberd., appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer Somerset and Bath Asylum, Wells.

MURCHISON, FIN. FIN., M.B., M.A., appointed Medical Superintendent of the Peckham House Asylum, Peckham, S.E.

STEWART, ROTHSAY C., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., appointed Assistant Medical Officer of the Peckham House Asylum, Peckham, S.E.

SUFFERN, A. C., M.D., M.Ch., appointed Assistant Medical Officer of the Borough Asylum, Winson Green, Birmingham.

TAYLOR, A. EVERLEY, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed., appointed Second Assistant Medical Officer of the County Asylum, Stafford.

TOMKINS, HARDING H., M.R.C.S., appointed Assistant Medical Officer Gloucester County Asylum.

TUKE, J. BATTY, appointed Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Saughton Hall Institution.

WILLIAMS, P. WATSON, L.R.C.P., appointed Clinical Assistant in the Birmingham Borough Asylum.