

LUNACY REPORT OF THE SCOTCH COMMISSIONERS.

On reference to Appendix A of the last Scotch Lunacy Blue Book, the Commissioners, in dealing with percentages, give only those for males and females, but no totals. (See Tables 7, 8 and 9.) Now these tables contain most of what the reader wishes to know for purposes of comparison, but we cannot compute the totals of percentages without knowing the general figures upon which they are calculated. This leads to considerable inconvenience, and we feel sure that when attention is drawn to the fact, it will be corrected by those who prepare these tables. It is because we attach so much value to the Statistical Tables which the Scotch Commissioners prepare, or cause to be prepared, that we venture to make a suggestion which, if adopted, would add to their usefulness.

Obituary.

ROBERT BRYCE GILLAND, M.D., L.F.P.S. Glasgow, M.R.C.S., AND L.S.A.

We record with regret the death of Dr Gilland, late Medical Superintendent of the Berks County Asylum, at the age of 49.

He was born in Ayrshire, and graduated at the University of Glasgow in 1860. He was then appointed house surgeon in the Royal Infirmary there, and published reports of many interesting surgical cases in the local medical journal. In the year of his graduation he was placed on the staff of the Glasgow Royal Asylum by Dr. Macintosh, and he served in that institution till 1864, when he resigned in order to prosecute his medical studies in Paris for a year. On his return Dr. Gilland was appointed assistant medical officer to the Essex County Asylum, and from that post was chosen medical superintendent of the Berks County Asylum in 1870. He was fortunate in securing that appointment before the building was completed, and he forthwith set about developing the resources of the institution over which he was placed, with the careful solicitude of his painstaking nature.

How he succeeded is best known to those with whom and for whom he worked. His was not a temperament to be known and read of all men. He never had more than a few intimate friends, and the absorbing cares of his asylum engrossing his time and thought more and more as years passed away, steadily diminished the circle of his acquaintance. The asylum became his only interest in life, and the constant care fretted his sensitive mind beyond endurance. For some years he avoided society, and gave up attending the meetings of the Association. In the autumn of last year his health broke down completely under the continuous strain, for he felt it to be impossible for him to take a holiday of anything like sufficient duration. Evil days had come upon him. The matron and the assistant medical officer, who had ably and devotedly aided him for years, had both resigned on account of ill-health. The end came speedily. In spite of the services of the best medical skill and nursing art, he died on the 8th March, worn out and exhausted while yet in the prime of life.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITORS OF *The Journal of Mental Science.*

SIRS,—Will you kindly allow the following correction of the report forwarded to you of my remarks on "An Asylum Service Provident Scheme" in the *Journal* for January (p. 624, top paragraph). I made no such sweeping assertion regarding the arbitrariness of asylum superintendents as is attributed to me. What I meant to imply and said was, "that the difficulty referred to by Dr. Ireland of discharging an attendant who had a vested interest in his situation was not altogether a drawback, for some superintendents were too arbitrary in the discharge of attendants, and it might be well if they were