

Dr. Paul Bartholow, of Philadelphia, has shown (*Journ. Amer. Medical Association*, November 14th, 1896) that homicides in the United States were nearly six times more in 1895 than in 1885. The foregoing are facts the public of America must attend to and intelligently deal with. The "reviewer" declares the book is "unnecessary," yet society and its machinery are chiefly responsible for the crime within it, and I know of no other book which presents typical cases of every-day offenders described in a way conducive to a better understanding by the public of the main factors in our criminal problem. And surely no one author can expect to reach the whole reading public. Medical psychologists do not make our laws.

So far, at the hands of "reviewers" my book has met with only commendation or tirade, and surely tirade is not criticism, nor even review. Let reviewers observe the golden rule, and be at least fair and honest. They have the *facts* before them, if they do not always have the requisite *understanding*.

[I have been favoured with the perusal of the above letter anent my review of Dr. Christison's book, *Crime and Criminals*, in the last number of the JOURNAL. Dr. Christison first quarrels with me for saying that his book "is not a scientific work," and then proceeds to admit the justice of the statement; ditto as regards the slang terms employed. As to the character of the English in which the text is conceived, a glance at the book itself will suffice to condone my use of the word "execrable." He next accuses me of "flatly denying" his statement that "crimes are nearly five times as numerous as forty years ago," whereas the words I used were "which we venture to doubt." As to the book being "unnecessary," that is only my opinion as reviewer. I must apologise to Dr. Christison for not having been able to take his book seriously, and for having treated it with a levity which he evidently considers undeserved. As I remain unable, after re-perusal of it, to modify my already expressed opinion, I must ask him to ascribe my want of appreciation to a lack of the "requisite understanding."—THE REVIEWER.]

THE LUNACY COMMISSION.

The retirement of Dr. Southey from the Lunacy Commission will be a source of regret to those members of our association who have had the best opportunity of knowing his worth, and the uniformly high ideas that he has maintained in the discharge of his duties. It is to be hoped that the onerous character of those duties, owing to the obvious and notorious understaffing of the Commission, has not had a share in leading to his retirement.

Dr. Sydney Coupland, who succeeds Dr. Southey, has a reputation both professional and individual that ensures his becoming a very successful member of the Commission. His long connection with the Middlesex Hospital has given him a very wide circle of friends, who regret the loss of his services to that institution, and who, we are informed, intend to express that regret in the practical form of a handsome testimonial.

OBITUARY.

JOHN BYWATER WARD.

John Bywater Ward, M.A., M.D. Cantab. Born March 18th, 1844; died October 3rd, 1898. Medical Superintendent and Secretary of the Warneford Asylum, Oxford.

Dr. Ward was a native of Leeds. He was the second son of Mr. William Sykes Ward, solicitor, of that city, and his wife Caroline, daughter of Mr. John Bywater, also of Leeds. In 1856 he entered the Leeds Grammar School, where he received the early part of his general education. On leaving the grammar school he became a student at the Leeds School of Medicine. He then entered at Caius College, Cambridge, as a Scholar, and graduated B.A. in 1867, taking a Second Class in Natural Science. He took the degree of M.B. in 1868, and became M.D. in 1872. He also held the diplomas of M.R.C.S. Eng., and L.S.A. His education being finished, Dr. Ward became one of the house surgeons to the Sheffield Infirmary, a post which he appears to have held for about two years. He then accepted a clinical clerkship at the West Riding Asylum under

the directorship of Dr. (now Sir) James Crichton Browne. At this time he contributed to the West Riding Asylum Reports a paper on the "Hypodermic Injection of Morphia in the Treatment of Insanity." He was next appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Warwick County Asylum, under the late Dr. Parsey, as Medical Superintendent, and here he remained for four years.

On September 17th, 1872, Dr. Ward was elected to the conjoined offices of Medical Superintendent and Secretary of the Warneford Asylum, Oxford. Up to this date it had been a rule of the Warneford Asylum that the Medical Superintendent should be a married man at the time of his appointment, and that his wife should be matron. With the election of Dr. Ward, who was then a bachelor, a new departure was inaugurated, and a matron was appointed at the same time. In 1880 Dr. Ward married Miss Frances Toone, youngest daughter of William Wastneys Toone, Esq., of Landcote Grange, Yorkshire. In spite of much difficulty and suffering from chronic ill-health, Dr. Ward discharged his various and responsible duties, involving a great deal of clerical and financial work, with ability and success for twenty-five years. Under his direction the Warneford Asylum fully maintained its high character among the Registered Hospitals of England. An Assistant Medical Officer was added to the staff, and the building was twice enlarged. Between Dr. Ward and his Committee of Management the greatest harmony and good feeling existed during the entire period of his tenure of office. He retired at Michaelmas, 1897, on a pension of £400, willingly granted; and the Governors, in a special minute, recorded their appreciation of the valuable services he had rendered to the Warneford Asylum. On his retirement Dr. Ward settled with his family in Oxford, where he had purchased a house. But his health, always imperfect, gradually declined. An abscess formed in a kidney, and he sank thirty-six hours after an operation had been performed by Mr. Winkfield, surgeon to the Radcliffe Infirmary. He was attended also by Dr. Gray, Consulting Physician to the Warneford Asylum, and by Dr. Proudfoot of Oxford. He was buried in the churchyard of Cowley St. John, Oxford. Dr. Ward is survived by his widow and four children—two sons and two daughters.

W. R. ANCRUM.

The death on October 9th of Dr. W. R. Ancrum, of St. Leonard's Court, Gloucester, at the age of eighty-two, deserves notice in the pages of this JOURNAL, for much of his work and time during the last thirty years of his life had been devoted to asylum administration. He had a successful career as a student of University College Hospital, as house surgeon of that hospital, as assistant to Mr. Liston, and as a practitioner both in this country and in South America. When he retired from the active pursuit of his profession he settled in Gloucestershire, and there his capacity for public work and his powers as an administrator were at once recognised. From the early sixties to within two years of his death he was associated with the management of the county infirmary, of the county asylum, and of Barnwood House Hospital for the Insane, and for many years he was chairman of the committees of these institutions. He left each of them more flourishing than he found it. He was a strong man, of sound judgment, keen discrimination, profound but regulated sympathy, and rigorously just in his dealings. He had in a high degree the capacity for entering into and sharing the enthusiasms of younger men, and it was this even more than his great qualities as an administrator which endeared Dr. Ancrum to the superintendents and other officers of the institutions with which he was connected.

CARLO GIACOMINI.

By the death of Professor Carlo Giacomini, of the University of Turin, Italy has lost one of her most illustrious sons. He was an indefatigable worker in anatomy, embryology, and anthropology. His works are well known, specially his *Guide to the Study of the Cerebral Convulsions* published some twenty years ago, and his *Anatomy of the Negro*, which throws light upon obscure points in evolution. Professor Giacomini's work on the *Brains of Microcephalics* is also worthy of remembrance.
