

was born Nov. 24, 1808, at Tullamore, King's Co., Ireland. He was M.D. Edin. 1831, L.R.C.P. Lond. 1836, F.R.C.P. 1852. He was formerly Lecturer on Medicine at the Charlotte Street School of Medicine, and Resident Physician at the Marylebone Infirmary, which he left June, 1847, on his appointment to the Somerset County Asylum. He resigned in 1868, leaving Wells in July. He took Southall Park Asylum January, 1874. He survived his wife only a few months.—(See *Occasional Notes of the Quarter.*)

### Correspondence.

#### *To the Editors of THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.*

GENTLEMEN,—The proposal of Dr. Ingleby to lift the floor of the chancel of the church of Stratford-on-Avon, where Shakespeare is known to lie, has aroused some ill-considered objections from the daily newspapers, some of which threaten “a storm of indignation” against all who wish the project carried out. It is one which I have often talked about to my friends, and which I have even thought of proposing in your Journal, so I hope that you will allow me to bespeak the influence of scientific men in support of Dr. Ingleby and those who are disposed to take his part.

In spite of such words as “bad taste,” “sacrilege,” and “desecration,” I do not believe that any person within the British Isles would shed a single tear, or eat an ounce less of beef and potatoes, or drink a pint more beer, because a few stones were lifted in the floor of the church and the light of day allowed to fall on the honoured bones of the great dramatist. The argument most likely to tell with the public is that Shakespeare himself, in the doggerel rhyme inscribed on his tomb, requested that his bones should not be moved. In a life of Shakespeare in my copy of his works, published twenty-four years ago, the following commentary is made:—“It is uncertain whether this request and imprecation were written by Shakespeare or by one of his friends. They probably allude to the custom of removing skeletons after a certain time and depositing them in charnel houses, and similar execrations are found in many Latin epitaphs.” This simple observation disposes of all the arguments drawn from the inscription. To all appearance Shakespeare was quite unconscious of the immortality he had gained. Assuredly he never considered the question whether he ought to forbid that his cranial outline should be examined hundreds of years after in order to repair the neglect of his contemporaries, who have left us in doubt as to what he was like when he lived.

It seems to me that the two portraits of Shakespeare presented in engravings are taken from two different men, one a very handsome and fine face, somewhat like a Spaniard, the other a much more English looking countenance, resembling the bust on the wall of the church. Of this bust we are neither sure that it was taken before Shakespeare was buried, nor that the sculptor could be trusted to make a good likeness. There is no doubt that his bones might be identified, when measurements and observations could be made that would be useful in deciding which of the portraits most resembled the illustrious dead. In the name of common-sense, what is there in Shakespeare dead that his remains should be for ever kept under an opaque slab of sandstone, never to be seen by the living even for a few hours, when anyone dwelling in London at the beginning of the seventeenth century might see him on the boards of the Globe Theatre for a few pence? A few years ago the grave of Dante was opened, and anthropologists now know the capacity of the cranium and the probable weight of the brain of the great Florentine.

The body of Richard II. was examined, and the story of his being brained by a pole-axe proved to be untrue. The remains of Charles I. were also examined, and the decapitated head was found to retain a striking likeness to the well-known portraits of Vandyke. And what are Richard II. and Charles I. to us

compared with Shakespeare? Save a very few, the dead are dead; their memories buried amongst the dead who once lived with them. Heine said, "I live and am stronger than all the dead." Shakespeare might say, "I am dead, and yet I am stronger than all the living." There are more plays of Shakespeare acted than of any living dramatist. It is for this reason that we are so anxious to snatch from the grave something more about Shakespeare, and this is called sacrilege. Is there one living who ever struggled for fame, or breathed a hope that men will not forget him in his grave, who would not feel it as an honour given to few amongst the sons of men to know that 267 years after he was laid to rest, those who kept alive the lamps of learning and of science would desire to lift his remains for a day in order to measure the capacity of his skull, and to ascertain whether there was anything to be observed in the structure of the bony case which contained a brain from which came manifestations of unapproachable mental power? And with what disgust and aversion would he look down upon the dull and ignorant writers in the daily journals of the year 2150 who would try to represent such an act of homage to his genius as a piece of sacrilege?

It seems to me likely enough that Dr. Ingleby's proposal may be put off till a more educated generation appears, unless the public are made clearly to understand the advantages its adoption would give to the study of craniology. I should therefore hope that the members of our Association will exert themselves to prevent the public being misled.

Preston Lodge, Prestonpans,  
10th September, 1883.

I am, yours, &c.,  
WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

Dr. Ireland's forcible appeal is in the name of science, not sensational curiosity.—[EDS.]

#### *Appointments.*

EVANS, D. T., M.R.C.S., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Three Counties Asylum, Beds, *vice* E. C. Rogers, M.R.C.S., resigned.

EWART, C. THEODORE, M.B., M.Ch., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Fisherton House Asylum, Salisbury, *vice* W. G. Coombs, M.D., resigned.

LEGG, R. J., M.D., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Derby County Asylum, *vice* W. W. Horton, M.B., resigned.

BENHAM, H. A., M.D., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the County Lunatic Asylum, Stapleton, near Bristol, *vice* R. Fullerton, M.B.

GIBBON, WM., L.K.Q.C.P.I., appointed Junior Assistant Medical Officer to the Joint Counties Asylum, Carmarthen.

MACDONALD, PETER WILLIAM, M.B. and C.M. Univ. Aberdeen (late Assistant Medical Officer to the Cheshire County Asylum, Macclesfield), has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Dorset County Asylum, *vice* W. H. Gillespie, L.K.Q.C.P.I., &c., resigned.

CLAPP, ROBERT, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Devon County Lunatic Asylum.

GIBB, WILLIAM, M.B., C.M., has been appointed Assistant Physician to Woodilee Asylum, Lenzie, *vice* John Keay, M.B., C.M., resigned.

MOORE, E. E., M.B., has been appointed Resident Medical Assistant to Down District Lunatic Asylum.

BRUNTON, CHAS. EDW., M.B. Cantab., M.R.C.S., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the County Lunatic Asylum, Colney Hatch, *vice* Brown, resigned.

WILSON, GERALD BARRY, L.K.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., has been appointed Second Assistant to the Resident Medical Superintendent of the District Lunacy Asylum, Cork.

BARNES, J. J. F., F.R.C.S., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Fisherton House Asylum.