

tions that one of its chief objects is to teach insanity and extend our knowledge of it through the wide range of experience which such an institution affords, he was considered the most suitable man for the position. Sir Robert Christison and Sir James Simpson assisted him actively in his application. In addition to the superintendence of the institution, he began successfully to lecture on insanity, was much consulted in his own department, and was an Examiner in Medicine at St. Andrew's University, which had conferred the honorary degree of M.D. on him in 1842. He did not, therefore, divorce himself from the general body of the profession when he entered a specialty. His conduct of the Asylum gave satisfaction to its Directors and to the profession in Edinburgh. His annual reports were from the beginning distinguished by great clearness, apt illustration, and literary elegance, and were most interesting, both professionally and to the public. He took great pains with his reports, and largely by their means he and his asylum became a power, not only in Edinburgh but throughout Scotland. They always contained an elaborate pathological appendix, and usually some original medical views.

Dr. Skae contributed several important papers to the medical journals. Those on "The Specific Gravity of the Brain in Insanity," on "The Treatment of Dipsomanias," on "The Legal Relations of Insanity," and on "General Paralysis," are the best known of these; but unquestionably his most important production was his address as President of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1863. The system of classification of insanity he there put forth has already had important results, and will have still more important results in the future. He was appointed Morisonian Lecturer on Insanity for 1873, and had intended to give a full exposition of his system in those lectures. He attended regularly the quarterly meetings of our Association, held in the North, and usually presided. His influence was very great, from the large number of his assistants who were fortunate enough to secure asylum appointments.

His personal character was well described in the *Scotsman* at the time of his death:—"Dr. Skae was one of the most kindly and genial of men, large-hearted, sympathetic, and tolerant, with a refined taste and most subtle humour, a singularly clear judgment and a well-balanced mind."

His personal appearance and characteristics were striking, and agreed with this description of his mental qualities. A stout figure, a kindly expression, ever ready to break out into a winning smile or a jovial laugh, reassuring brown eyes, a massive head, only second to Simpson's among the Edinburgh doctors, set on a strong neck and shoulders, the impression he made on a stranger was that of one who enjoyed life and wished others to enjoy it too. He was careless to a fault in his dress, was a great smoker, and did not despise the good things of this life. He exercised a wonderful charm on those who knew him intimately.

He married early in life, and leaves a widow and five sons, three of whom are members of the medical profession, two of them following worthily in their father's footsteps as Asylum Superintendents.

He had been in failing health for the last two or three years, and died on the 18th of April of soft cancer of the œsophagus, from which he suffered most severely, but was perfectly calm and patient and composed in mind to the end. His unruffled mental equanimity, the expression and effect in a great degree, no doubt, of thoroughly balanced brain power and perfect bodily health up to the time of his last illness, carried him safely through his pain and weakness, enabled him to look steadily and trustfully at his grounds of hope for the future life, and was an euthanasia that made his last moments tranquil as those of a child going to sleep.

T. S. C.

#### B. A. MOREL, M.D.

Our great men are passing away from among us. It is not very long since we had the sad duty of announcing Griesinger's death, and now Morel, of Rouen—another man of genius—who filled a not less eminent position in psychological medicine, has gone over to the majority. We are not acquainted with the early history of this distinguished physician: all that is known to us is that he was for a long time the chief physician of the Asylum of Saint-Yon (Seine Inférieure); that many years ago he visited England, and resided for a time in the Hanwell Asylum, in order to make himself practically familiar with the working of the system of non-restraint; that he was ever afterwards its earnest defender in France; and that he has published several most valuable contributions to our knowledge of mental diseases, and especially to our knowledge of the characters of the different forms of degeneracy of

the human kind. His *Traité des Dégénérescences Humaines* is an original work, the reputation of which will grow with the growth of our knowledge; for in it he has marked the lines which future researches must follow in a most promising and important field of enquiry. His *Traité des Maladies Mentales* is a standard work, and, philosophical in its scope, full of valuable observation, profoundly suggestive, and sparkling with gleams of original insight. Nowhere else will so complete and exact an account be found of the characters of the varieties of hereditary insanity, nor so complete an exposition, from a scientific point of view, of the entire causation of insanity. The etiological system of classification which he has propounded should be well-known to our readers. Though it has not been adopted as a practical system of classification, there are features in it of which assuredly account will have to be taken in the formation of a complete classification, when the time comes for it. Besides these standard treatises Morel published a work on the Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity, and many most important contributions at different times on medico-legal cases, and on other matters of medico-psychological research. Among these we may specify, as being of special excellence, his work *De la Formation du Type dans les Variétés Dégénérées*, 1864, a medico-legal report *De la Folie Héritaire*, 1864, and a valuable contribution *D'une forme de Délire suite d'une surexcitation nerveuse rattachant à une variété non encore décrite d'Epilepsie - Epilepsie Larvée*. His medico-legal reports on different cases which he was called upon to examine are to be found in the pages of the *Annales Médico-psychologiques*, and will well repay the study which they deserve. One of his last appearances as an expert was in the affair Chorinsky, of which we give a brief notice in this Journal, and it is a striking proof of his thorough competence, and of the confidence which a complete and exact knowledge begets, that on that occasion he predicted that Chorinsky would die of paralysis or epilepsy, and that the man has since died of paralysis.

Morel was not honoured with much worldly honour or recompense in France. His life was spent as the physician of a provincial asylum. He had fallen on the evil days of Imperialism, and he was of too noble and sincere a nature to follow in the train of its supporters; he could not frame his lips to speak well of him who, having most solemnly sworn, as President of the Republic, to preserve the Republic, immediately afterwards, aided by a band of congenial conspirators, strangled liberty in the night, and consecrated its destruction by the murder and transportation of its martyrs. But he has left behind him a name which will be remembered so long as men shall study the history of the origin and development of medico-psychology; and should the time come, as no doubt it will come, when his name is no longer heard of, when his individual reputation, like his bodily individuality, shall have passed away, the original and useful work which he has done will not perish; it will have had its immortal part in the promotion of that great process of evolution which, it may be presumed, will go on in the time to come as it has gone on in the time past.

#### THOMAS POWER, M.D.

The demise of another of the resident Medical Superintendents in Ireland has unhappily to be again recorded, following comparatively soon that of Dr. Smith, of Londonderry. In the present instance, an experienced and worthy member of the specialty, in the person of Thomas Power, M.D., of the Cork District Hospital for the Insane has to be announced, he having succumbed, on the 17th April last, more immediately to an attack of bronchitis complicated with Emphysema and a gouty diathesis. He had attained the ripe age of 72, and up to the last few months continued in the active performance of his onerous duties. A more kindly or well-hearted member of the profession could not have been, and greatly indeed has his loss been felt by the inmates of his Institution, in whose charge it had been for the lengthened and trying period of 23 years, his appointment dating in 1845. Dr. Power had a highly cultivated mind, and was well and thoroughly educated in his profession, having, after graduating as M.D., in Edinburgh University, in 1823, further studied for three successive years in Paris, under the celebrated Dupuytren, Laenec, Velpeau, &c. He, besides being Lecturer on Botany in the Cork School of Medicine, was the author of a useful and interesting little volume entitled, "Flora of County Cork," also a "Report on first employment of Turkish Bath as a remedy in Insanity." Dr. Power was a widower for the last few years, and has left behind him sons and daughters to mourn his loss. His eldest son in the profession also holds a lucrative and important position in the Military Medical Department at Hong Kong. Another son likewise is a medical man.