

mental symptoms in the case recorded were part of the disorder, and not a mere coincidence.

The attention of the meeting having been drawn to the recent appointment of a medical superintendent to the Haywards Heath Asylum, in the County of Sussex, a discussion took place thereon, in which a feeling strongly condemnatory of the action of the asylum authorities was expressed.

Dr. Ireland's paper on "Bergen Institution for Idiots" was then read.

The CHAIRMAN having thanked Dr. Ireland in the name of the meeting for the very interesting paper he had given,

Dr. CAMPBELL mentioned that in the absence of Dr. Urquhart (the secretary), and of Drs. Clouston and Yellowlees (who had now left the meeting), he thought it would be impossible to make many arrangements just now regarding the meetings in August. He therefore proposed to the meeting that Drs. Howden, Clouston, Yellowlees, and Urquhart be appointed a Committee to make all arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association in Edinburgh, with a view also to the Meeting of the British Medical Association in Glasgow in August next.

These gentlemen were duly seconded and appointed as a Committee for this purpose.

The CHAIRMAN made the suggestion that arrangements might be made for the members visiting some of the country districts about Balfron, Aberfoyle, and that neighbourhood, where they would have an opportunity of seeing the system of boarding-out lunatics, very large numbers of lunatics being boarded in private families in these districts. He thought that this would form a very interesting excursion to the members who would be here in August at the British Medical Association's meeting.

Dr. CAMPBELL was quite prepared to carry out the idea, if the meeting were in favour of it.

The CHAIRMAN said that they would try and get the names and addresses of boarded-out lunatics, and perhaps might make a three or four hours' excursion.

The meeting then terminated.

Obituary.

M. FOVILLE.

In our last number we recorded with deep regret the decease of this eminent French alienist. We desire to add the eloquent tribute paid to his memory by M. Motet in the "Annales d'Hygiène et de Médecine Légale":—

Foville dies at 57 in the full maturity of his powers. After he had already to a large extent proved his capacity, the high position to which he had been called gave him constant opportunities of showing his superior qualities. One of the ablest administrators, as well as a most experienced physician, he was one of those whose authority is immediately felt, and whose opinion is received with respect, and when M. Napias rendered homage at his tomb, in the name of the Minister of the Interior, to the Inspector-General of Charitable Institutions and Asylums for the Insane, he could say that Foville had filled his difficult post with honour, high-mindedness, dignity of character, and what is no less important, the good-heartedness which Foville often concealed, but which remained ever active in him.

The son of a physician justly celebrated, whose works upon anatomy and cerebral pathology are safe guides even now in these delicate studies, Foville felt himself drawn to medicine. For other men the paternal heritage might have seemed too heavy to bear; for him it was an example to follow, a renown to endeavour to equal. The successes of the student soon indicated the brilliant future reserved for him. The *interne* of the Paris Hospitals, he had not long to seek his course, and his thesis for the doctorate, "Considérations Physiologiques sur l'accès d'épilepsie" (1857), was the first step in a career which has been traversed with *éclat*. He was Assistant Medical Officer at the asylum

of Quatre-Mares (1859). In 1860 he was Physician-in-Chief of the Maréville Asylum. Then, successively, he became the Medical Director of the Asylum of Dôle (1861), of Châlons-sur-Marne (1863). He became Assistant Physician at Charenton April 21st, 1866, where he found the memory of his father still green, and he resided there six years, esteemed by all, working hard, and obtaining the solid reputation of a first-rate clinical observer. From Charenton he returned to Quatre-Mares, now as the Physician-in-Chief (1872). The Minister of the Interior appointed him, after holding this post for eight years, Inspector-General of Charitable Institutions and Asylums for the Insane (March 18, 1880). This choice was justified by the work Foville performed. The questions regarding Lunacy Legislation and the administration of asylums had specially interested him for long. In 1870 he contributed to the "Annales d'Hygiène" the most complete study of the Law of 1838. On reading these pages again we have found already indicated those modifications, the importance of which experience has demonstrated. Some of them have been introduced into the *projet de loi* voted last year by the Senate. The more active intervention of the magistracy, the administration of property, provisional admission into asylums, the observation of criminals suspected to be insane, &c., all these details were considered with so rare an ability, and so much wisdom and prudent reserve, that the mark of a fair mind and enormous experience may be recognized in every line.

In the same spirit Foville studied the Lunacy Legislation of the United States, and investigated the practical methods of combating drunkenness by comparing the means proposed for this purpose in England, America, and France. As a consequence of holding so important an office, his advice was sought on questions of administration and Government aid. We owe to him numerous reports on the creation of Dispensaries for sick children, on the Hospital for Poor Children in Paris, in collaboration with Lunier, and on the construction and administration of Hospitals similar to those recently erected in England. These questions connected with public institutions especially interested him. At the time when death terminated his labours he was engaged in completing a work entitled "Les Nouvelles Institutions de Bienfaisance." As a part of the same labour and object he published in 1885 a remarkable work upon institutions for the insane in England and Scotland. It is the report of the mission which the Minister of the Interior entrusted to him when the Commission nominated by the Senate decided that the asylums of Great Britain should be visited.* This masterly work exhibited all the qualities of Foville as an observer; his calmness, the moderation which permitted him to exercise a sound judgment upon all that he saw, and, without being critical, to show what our neighbours have been able to effect in a different way from what we have done, sometimes better, without, however, concluding that as a whole we are inferior. Thus his influence was great in this moderate and impartial position where he enunciated opinions, the value of which was felt to be indisputable. Everyone was conscious that if Foville maintained his ideas somewhat tenaciously, it was because they were the result of prolonged meditation. His principles were severe, his rule of conduct unbending. He was never, however, a party man in the sense of being wedded to a foregone conclusion. Accessible to reason, he was as far removed from the spirit of routine as from that of rashness, and he accepted the necessity of progress when it was shown him that it was real, and that under the pretext of improvement, new departures would not throw into disorder that which had been established after long efforts.

In Forensic Medicine and in Medical Psychology Foville was no less distinguished. The "Annales d'Hygiène" have received communications from him of the greatest interest—the "Nouveau Dictionnaire de Médecine et de Chirurgie Pratiques," articles which are really monographs.†

* "La Législation relative aux Aliénés en Angleterre et en Ecosse." Paris, 1885.

† e.g., "Convulsions" (tome ix.); "Délire, Démence, Dipsomanie" (tome x.); "Folie, Folie à Double Forme, Folie Instinctive et Folie des Actes" (tome xv.); "Kléptomanie" (tome xix.); "Lypémanie, Manie" (tome xxi.); "Paralysie Générale" (tome xxvi).

In the learned societies to which he belonged his remarks were always listened to with attention. No one has forgotten his work upon "Mégélonie," crowned by the Academy of Medicine.*

Always lucid, always exact, his style reflected his character. Profoundly honest, a man to whom everyone who knew him well was sincerely attached, he had an excellent heart and a rare modesty. All who have worked with him or near him retain a respectful memory of him as a fellow-worker and a regretted colleague, while they address to him their last adieu with a lively and sincere emotion.

DR. JOHN MILLAR.

Since our last number was issued psychological medicine has lost one of its most respected members, John Millar, Medical Superintendent at Bethnal House Asylum, London. He had promised to be present at the annual dinner of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in December, on the occasion of one of his former assistants, Dr. Peel Ritchie, being elected to fill the Presidential chair of that College, but on account of his susceptibility to attacks of bronchial asthma, he thought it prudent not to undertake the journey at that time. On the 9th of January, although advised to keep indoors, he had to be out on business, and caught a severe cold. That day he went to bed, consolidation of the broncho-pneumonia form developed, and in spite of all that medical skill could do, he gradually got worse, and died on 19th January, having with a mind at rest, ere consciousness was veiled, taken an affectionate farewell of the members of his family. He lies in the quiet churchyard at Shirley.

Dr. Millar's death is mourned by many, for all who knew him intimately could not but appreciate the kindly warmth of a true heart and a genuine nature. He was a man of upright character, who meant what he said. There was no deception about him—straightforward himself, he looked for a like return; kind and hearty in his welcome to his hospitable home; generous and good without ostentation, in the true Christian spirit of not letting one hand know the free gift the other had conferred.

As an asylum superintendent he was excellent, combining, as he did, with acute and accurate observation diagnostic skill and prognostic acumen—in fact all the qualities of a successful practitioner—with the business abilities for regulating the management and administration, the furnishing and equipment of a large asylum. His long experience at Bethnal House had given him a familiarity with all the details of asylum life which enabled him to add greatly to the comfort and happiness of his patients, whose welfare and all that could conduce to it were ever foremost in his thoughts. He had great tact in guiding them, and with those capable of forming a judgment he was in high favour.

Dr. Millar was born in Scotland in 1818. He received his professional education at Glasgow University, and in 1838 obtained the license of the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and in 1859 was admitted a Licentiate of the College of Physicians there. He was a man of scientific tastes and culture, and although not a contributor directly to the literature of science, he occupied much of his leisure time in microscopic investigations, the results of which he freely communicated to those who were working at the subject investigated. He was particularly interested in the "Spongida," and his researches have contributed to our knowledge of the structure of those animals. One species—"Alectona Millari"—which bores into the shell of the common oyster, has been named after him.

He had no jealousy in his nature, but was ever ready to appreciate the work of others, and always willing to assist them with his advice and practical suggestions in all that related to microscopical inquiry. For more than thirty years he was a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society, and for upwards of twenty years a member of Council. He was also one of the Publication Committee,

* "Étude Clinique de la Folie avec Prédominance du Délire des Grandeurs." Paris, 1871.