

that at times he carried on his life-work under circumstances of painful difficulty that would have daunted a less resolute man, his health had improved so much of late that Dr. Aitken's death at Baden was a shock to his many friends who had parted so recently from him in high spirits and the prospective enjoyment of a holiday in Germany.

His loss will be widely felt, not only by those with whom he was more intimately professionally connected, but also by the public in the north of Scotland. Dr. Aitken did not confine his energies to the administration of asylum affairs, but he was also a good citizen and a man of no ordinary accomplishments, both literary and scientific. He was deeply interested in archæology and geology, and specially wrote on the Hill Forts so common in the north of Scotland. All his life long he was an eager student. His collection of books on the French Revolution was very complete; and his study of Heine, and the poetry of Keats and Wordsworth was both comprehensive and erudite. Dr. Aitken had a full knowledge of French and German, and has left many translations from works in these languages, not only from those dealing with psychiatry, but also from such poets as Heine.

Dr. Aitken did not publish any work of note in psychological medicine, although he was ever careful to keep abreast with the foremost knowledge of the time. His conscientious reports have been noticed from time to time in this Journal, and although his views did not always command assent, they were respected as the outspoken accents of sincere conviction.

A. R. U.

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#### M. PROSPER DESPINE.

Dr. Despine, of Marseilles, died there January 16th, 1892, at the age of eighty.

He was an honorary member of the Medico-Psychological Association.

A native of Savoy, he commenced his medical studies in the Marseilles School of Medicine; he pursued and finished them in Paris, where he obtained his degree of M.D. in 1837.

Despine was *interne* at Bicêtre under Ferrus and Leuret. It was under the direction of these enlightened alienists and also by associating with fellow-students, who were themselves afterwards distinguished masters of mental science, that Despine acquired a keen taste for the study of the problems of psychology and medical philosophy. He was the author of several works of profound erudition, in which he proved himself to be a mental philosopher, and, in some respects, an able exponent of the Scotch metaphysical school. Such are his "Psychologie naturelle ou Etude sur les facultés intellectuelles ou morales dans leur état normal, et dans leurs manifestations anormales chez les aliénés et chez les criminelles" (1868): "De la folie au point de vue philosophique ou plus spécialement psychologique chez le malade et chez l'homme en santé" (ouvrage couronné par l'Institut en 1874), "Etude scientifique du somnambulisme" (ouvrage récompensé par la Société medico-psychologique de Paris, 1877). He also published "La Contagion morale" (1870), "L'imitation ou les principes qui la déterminent" (1871), "Le démon alcool" (1871), "De l'état psychique des criminels," "Un cas d'hystérie aiguë chez l'homme," etc. His last work was an interesting study on Moliere, in which he studied the illustrious comedian as moralist and as philosopher. Its title was "La Science du cœur humain" (1884).

Dr. Despine was an honorary member of the Société Médico-Psychologique of Paris, of the Académie des Sciences, Belles Lettres et Arts of Savoy, and of the American Society of Prisons. His great age did not allow of his taking

an active part in the proceedings of these different learned bodies, but to the last moment he was interested in the questions which had been the object of his researches. He died after a short illness. Very modest, very upright in character, he was held in high esteem by all his medical brethren.

DR. PHILIPPE REY.

### NURSING CERTIFICATES.

The following candidates were successful at the examination for the certificate of proficiency in nursing held in November, 1892:—

#### *Winson Green Asylum, Birmingham.*

##### *Males.*

Yarnal, Alfred.

##### *Females.*

Holden, Bertha.

#### *Derby Borough Asylum.*

MacDonald, Helen N.

#### *Holloway Sanatorium.*

Aries, William.

Gouriet, Alfred.

Green, Edward John.

Jenkins, Lambert.

Ponsford, Henry.

Webber, John.

Barrett, Lydia.

Cowling, Clara.

D'Arcy, Maud.

Greatbatch, Elizabeth Annie.

Gleeve, Kathleen.

Heraper, Elizabeth.

Hughes, Annie.

Julius, Minnie.

Pakenham, Emma Mary.

#### *Crichton Royal Asylum, Dumfries.*

McLeod, Jessie.

#### *Kirklands Asylum, Bothwell.*

Macaskill, John.

#### *Sunningside Asylum, Montrose.*

Dunbar, John.

Emslie, Robert.

Massie, John S.

Duncan, Annie.

Duncan, Christina.

Findlay, Elizabeth.

McIntosh, Elizabeth.

Middleton, Margaret.

McCall, Mary.

The next examination for this certificate will take place on Monday, the first day of May, 1893. Candidates can obtain from the Registrar a schedule, which should be filled up and signed as required, and returned to him at least four weeks before the date of the examination.

Letters of inquiry respecting this certificate should be addressed to Dr. Spence, Burntwood Asylum, near Lichfield, Staffordshire.