merely, and not on account of his being actually at the time and having been for some time an officer in the lower grade, as is the case with Assistant Medical Officers in Asylums. Regarding the rule whose adoption you propose in the Rules and Regulations of all Asylums, in order to make clear and distinct to all subordinate officers what position the Assistant Medical, Officer ho'ds and what authority he can exercise in the temporary, or prolonged absence from duty of the Medical Superintendent, I think it is at present very rarely to be seen amongst the Rules and Regulations of Asylums; but in those of the Fife and Kinross District Lunatic Asylum, where I held the post of Assistant Physician for some time, there is a rule to the following effect, which pretty clearly states the position of an Assistant Physician in the absence of the Medical Superintendent. Referring to the Assistant Physician, rule 3 states that "in the absence of the Medical Superintendent—he shall perform his duties and exercise his authority over the patients and attendants." Even this is not quite explicit enough, however, for it does not mention the other subordinate officers. The rule you recommend is a very good one, but would not the following be shorter and perhaps as explicit, viz.:—The Assistant Superintendent shall in the absence of the Medical Superintendent exercise all his authority, and shall be during such absence responsible for the whole general management of the Asylum.

In conclusion, I have as an Assistant Medical Officer to heartily thank you for your kindness in taking up this most important question, and I trust that after a little further ventilation of the subject in your valuable columns we may come to some determination as to the most advisable course to be taken in order to gain what we desire. Whether or not it shall be in the form of a petition from the Assistant Medical Officers, of Asylums, in a body, to your influential and representative Association, and also to the Commissioners in Lunacy to institute enquiries into the matter and afford us weighty assistance, time will show Enclosing my card,

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

"AN ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER TO A COUNTY ASYLUM AND FORMERLY A RESIDENT CLINICAL CLERK."

March 9th, 1869.

Appointments.

DR. LOCKHART ROBERTSON has been elected Corresponding Member of the Medico-Psychological Association of Vienna.

SKAE, C. H., M.D., Assistant-Superintendent of the Fife and Kinross District Lunatic Asylum, has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Ayrshire District Lunatic Asylum.

MAYHEW, Mr. C., of King's College Hospital, has been appointed Clinical Clerk at the West Riding of Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum, Wakefield, vice Aldridge, promoted.

BURMAN, J. WILKIE, M.B. Edin., L.R.C.S.E., late Resident Clinical Clerk at the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield, has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Devon County Lunatic Asylum, Exminster.

LEWIS, WILLIAM BEVAN, L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A., Assistant Medical Officer to the Bucks County Lunatic Asylum, at Stone, near Aylesbury.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X00232933 Published online by Cambridge University Press