of diseased appearances within the heads of those dying insane, proclaims that the affection has continued limited to the cells of the *grey matter* of the brain; and so it is that the records of the dead-house of the Hanwell Asylum demonstrate that 5 per cent. of the insane are without appreciable lesion of structure within the cranium.

If this good ground had been broken by the medical witnesses on the side of the plaintiff "In re Pearse and Pearse and another" I think it not unlikely that the issue of the trial would have been different from what it was. Doubtless the tone given to the medical evidence, so far as it went in *the cross-examination*, rendered, to some extent, the cause of the plaintiff hopeless. Two words in conclusion—1st. The days of medical partisanship must be numbered. 2. All questions of medical science occurring in our Law Courts must be decided by a MEDICAL JURY, *i.e.*, by ARBITRATION.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. G. DAVEY, M.D.
Member of the Royal College of Physicians, &c., &c.

Northwoods, Bristol,
25th August, 1868.

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*To the Editors of the Journal of Mental Science.*

Glamorgan County Asylum, Bridgend,
August 31, 1868.

GENTLEMEN,—

In the notice of the Annual Report of this Asylum, which appears in the July number of the Journal, it is stated that the appendix to my report is "chiefly devoted to casting doubts on the value of medicinal agents in the relief of the symptoms of acute and chronic mental diseases."

I must beg leave entirely to disavow this wholesale scepticism. I have written nothing which warrants its imputation. The appendix (9 v.) speaks of narcotics and sedatives, "fully acknowledging their great value in many cases," but condemning their "*habitual indiscriminate use*," as "needless and baneful." It also deprecates the "*undue use*" of digitalis, as not unaccompanied with danger. These are the only medicines spoken of in the appendix; the very important question as to the value of medicinal agents in the treatment of mental diseases is not alluded to except in these instances, and it can only be by inadvertence that the reviewer makes the above sweeping criticism.

I conceive the "medicinal" treatment of insanity to be probably the widest and most difficult department of practical medicine, and one which has of late been receiving too little attention. The excitement has been too much regarded as the disease, and the medicinal treatment has been too much confined to the class of remedies of which the appendix speaks.

I do not allude to other subjects, as the object of my letter is not to answer criticism, but to remove misapprehension.

I am, yours faithfully,
D. YELLOWLEES, M.D., Edin.,
Medical Superintendent.

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*Appointments.*

SIR CHARLES HOOD.—We announced last week the election of Dr. W. C. Hood as Treasurer of Bethlehem Hospital. He has this week received the honour of knighthood, in recognition of his eminent services to psychological

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medicine and practice, and of his public services in his professional capacity.—*British Medical Journal, July* 11.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—At a general meeting of the Fellows held on the 10th August, Charles Alexander Lockhart Robertson, M.D. Cantab., County Lunatic Asylum, Haywards Heath, and Thomas Harrington Tuke, M.D. St, And., Manor House, Chiswick, were duly admitted Fellows of the College.

BATT, H., L.R.C.P. Ed., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Somerset County Lunatic Asylum, Wells.

CASEY, E., M.B., has been appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer to the Gloucester County Lunatic Asylum, Wotton, vice John H. Simpson, L.R.C.P.L., resigned.

ROBERTSON, JOHN C. G., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Cavan District Lunatic Asylum, Monaghan, Ireland.

PRITCHARD, H. J., M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Junior Assistant Medical Officer to the County Lunatic Asylum, Gloucester.

## *Obituary.*

DEATH OF DR. ROGAN.—At the County Derry Lunatic Asylum, on Sunday morning (30th ultimo), died Doctor Rogan, the Resident Physician of that Institution. Son of one of our most respected local medical men, and nephew of another, whose professional eminence was National—he was trained for the same calling. To a rare amount of natural talent, was added an education as perfect as industry and perseverance in the best schools and under the best masters could make it. At College he distinguished himself as a first-class prize-man in more than one branch of natural science, and his love of learning was such as to make him an earnest student to the end of his life. His knowledge and attainments, as a Physician, were held in high estimation by his brethren, who often asked for his assistance in cases requiring more than ordinary acumen. We have further heard it said by competent critics, that his judgment and skill as a surgeon were such as would have placed him in the front ranks of metropolitan practice. His tastes, however, were different, and his ambition soared no higher than the office he held. He gave up a growing practice, and confident hopes of eminent and lucrative position, to hold the unobtrusive appointment of Resident Physician of the County Derry Asylum. Here his energies were chiefly devoted to the study of mental disease, and to the treatment of his unfortunate patients, duties for which he was, in all respects, eminently qualified. But it was not merely his talents or his attainments that won the love of all who knew him. The remarkable geniality of his disposition, his imperturbable sweet temper, his kind and unselfish life, have endeared him to persons of every class and denomination, and rendered his death a public loss. His unexpected removal was caused by disease of the heart. We learn that his professional brethren have asked permission to attend the funeral as mourners; and that a similar tribute of respect is intended by the members of the Society of Freemasons, of which he was a distinguished brother and a bright ornament.—*Londonderry Standard, Sept.* 2, 1868.

We may add to the above well-merited eulogium on the late Dr. Rogan, whose personal acquaintance we enjoyed for a number of years, that he held the trying and arduous office in which he died so suddenly for a period of ten years, the discharge of the duties of which could not have been more faithful or efficient than in his hands. He was a member of our Association since 1861, and always took a warm interest in our specialty, thus making his premature and lamented removal to be the more keenly felt. He has left behind him a widow and several young children to mourn the irreparable loss of a most devoted husband and parent. The deceased had only reached 41 years of age—*R.S.*

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