associates. He can, like his twin brother, perform many of the ordinary duties of life, and is able to take care of himself, but he is irritable and much more passionate, and occasionally when thwarted gives way to fits of ungovernable rage, amounting nearly to short maniacal attacks. He is, however, usually fairly well behaved.

From the foregoing notes it will be seen that there is a marked resemblance in the twin brothers. Thus—both men are imbecile, and the degree of mental weakness is almost equal in the two, and corresponds, I think, to the first of the three classes into which Hoffbauer divided imbecility. Both are very passionate, liable to paroxysms of anger, very depraved and prone to commit petty acts of theft. They are also of the same height, and are very much alike in build and appearance, but there is a difference in the facial expression, for whilst the younger has usually a sulky countenance, the elder twin's face is frequently brightened by a broad grin or imbecile smile.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

The Recent Lunacy Appointment.

One feature of this Journal is to comment upon the topic or topics of the Quarter possessing most interest to the special branch of medicine, of which it is the accredited organ. In accordance with this practice we should have offered some observations on an event which has aroused so much feeling as the appointment recently made in the Lunacy Board consequent upon the resignation of Dr. Nairne.

When a similar appointment was made many years ago, Mr. Cairns raised his voice in Parliament against it, but in vain; and equally fruitless was the eloquent appeal made by the then Editor of the Journal, Dr. Bucknill, who acknowledged that he "would fain have avoided the invidious task of commenting upon it, but that the indignant letters he had received from members of the Association made it his imperative duty to express his entire disapproval of the principle or want of principle upon which the choice of the Government had been made;" being, as he continued, a heavy blow and great discouragement to all medical men practising in lunacy, whether in or out of asylums. "How can men instruct who have never learnt? How can men direct the most difficult of labour who have never sub-

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mitted to work?" Referring to those who, in undertaking the duties of this appointment, "take great credit to themselves for bringing to the Commission a freedom from prejudice derived from primitive innocence in all that relates to asylums and the insane," Dr. Bucknill incisively adds "as if ignorance were the parent of impartiality!"

There are various ways, however, of marking the feeling which has arisen in our ranks. It would be easy to write a hot and bitter article; it would also be easy to state forcibly, though in the baldest terms, the obvious reasons why this appointment has caused widespread disapproval, we were about to say, indignation succeeding to astonishment; but instead of pursuing either course, we shall follow the example of the Annual Meeting of the Association itself. The members felt, and, as individuals, were not slow to assert, that a glaring injustice had been committed, but they deemed it more dignified, as an Association, to exercise self-restraint, though smarting under the sense of the wrong which had been done their members, and to maintain absolute silence, satisfied that it would be understood that while silence meant assent to the protest contained in the letter addressed to them by Dr. Clouston, it did not mean assent to the justice of the appointment. If, then, we err in thinking that on this occasion silence is golden, we do so in the good company of the Association, by whose "authority" this Journal is published. Speech is indeed but silvern, when protest, however just, would be futile. Now, as in the days of Homer—

> "The man who suffers, loudly may complain,
> And rage he may, but he shall rage in vain."

The Catastrophe at Southall Park.

It is rarely indeed that so sad and fatal an occurrence as the calamity at the Southall Private Asylum occurs to bring home to those who have the charge of the helpless and insane the added risk they incur of loss of life in the event of fire. Little is known of the circumstances immediately attending the fate of the victims of this fire, but it redounds to Dr. Boyd's credit that when he perished in the flames in the early morning of the 14th of August, he was returning to look after the security of his patients, after having seen his daughters to a place of safety, by which they escaped from the house. Much has been said as to the deficient precautions taken against fire in this and

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