distinguished for fairness and research on your side of the Atlantic, have already given their honourable names and their vast influence in support of this noble cause, and I feel assured that when you allow yourself time and reason to secure the removal from your own vision of the mist of prejudice, you will not be content to stand with a diminutive minority of the British Medical Association on this very important subject.

"Yours truly,

"JOSEPH PARRISH.

"Burlington, New Jersey, U. S. A.
"May 10, 1877."

KNAVERY AND SUPERSTITION.

A very curious tragedy has lately occurred in the town of Cervera (5,000 inhabitants), Province of Logrono. The details are given by a number of newspapers, but the following is an account translated from the "Imparcial:"—"A rich proprietor, well known in the country for his advanced opinions, refused on his death-bed to accept any spiritual help, notwithstanding the prayers of his family and the advice of his best friends. There was a moment, however, when it was thought that the patient had modified his determination; the priest of the parish presented himself by the side of the dying man, but, finding that he persisted in his refusal, he retired precipitately, saying aloud to those who were present that, after the death of the reprobate, the devil would come in person to take charge of his body and conduct him to hell. Two days after the family were watching over the corpse of the relation they had lost, when the door of the mourning room was suddenly flung open, and an indefinable being dressed in scarlet, smelling (*apestando*) of burnt sulphur, and dragging an immense tail, presented himself before the mourners, who, full of terror, rushed away from the room. On hearing the screams of these people, a man-servant, who was in the next room, snatched up a revolver and entered the scene of the scandal. As may be supposed, he stood terrified at the sight of the devil; but thinking that it would be better to kill his infernal majesty than be killed by him, he fired three shots at him point blank (*a boca de jarro*). Shortly after the family of the deceased found themselves face to face with the sacristan of the parish, *dequisé en diable*, with three shots in his breast and the foam of death upon his lips. The authorities at once interfered, and took four priests into custody. On the following day the unhappy sacristan was buried."

Appointments.

CEELY, R.W., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Haydock Lodge Lunatic Asylum, near Newton-le-Willows.

LILLEY, G. H., M.D., M.R.C.P.L., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Warwickshire Lunatic Asylum, Hatton, vice Jones, resigned.

MURDOCH, W., M B., C.M., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Perth District Lunatic Asylum, Murthly, vice Daniel, appointed to the Derbyshire Lunatic Asylum, Mickleover.

RIDLEY, J. H. W., M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Dunston Lodge Lunatic Asylum, near Gateshead-on-Tyne, vice Blackett, deceased.

TYNER, R. G., L.R.C.S.I., L.K.Q.C.P.I., and L.M., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Wiltshire Lunatic Asylum, Devizes, vice Masterton, resigned.

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