### *Assault by a Patient on a Superintendent.*

Dr. Murray Lindsay, the Medical Superintendent of the Derby County Asylum, was attacked in a very dangerous manner by one of the patients under his care on Nov. 25th. The man was regarded as harmless and inoffensive, and had been in the asylum twelve years. He worked in the joiner's shop, and on Dr. Lindsay entering, wounded him with a chisel in three places, causing the flow of blood in the left groin, the abdomen, and the chest near the heart. It was so quickly and quietly done that another patient at work in the room at the time, with his back towards the man, was unaware that anything had occurred, and went on with his work as usual. Dr. Lindsay, fortunately, did not faint, and, deeming it prudent to avoid a struggle, left the shop, and gave orders about the patient, who at once parted with the chisel, and, without exhibiting any agitation, walked quietly to the ward with the engineer, remarking, however, that he regretted that he had not done for the doctor, and that he would yet, if he had to wait twenty years. Dr. Lindsay was attended by Mr. Dolman, senior surgeon to the Derby Infirmary. The wounds happily proved much less dangerous than it was at first feared they would be, and no alarming symptoms have arisen.

All our readers will, we are sure, join with us in congratulating Dr. Lindsay on his escape from such an alarming attack, and rejoice that he is spared—we hope for many years—to carry on the work in which he is engaged, with so much credit to himself and advantage to the asylum.

This event raises the question of compensation for injuries to the officers of asylums, and we hope that an improvement of the present provisions of the law will be the result. We shall return to the subject in a future number.

In this instance, the occurrence cannot be adduced as an argument in support of mechanical restraint, for as the patient had been employed for years in the workshop, and had been regarded as so very inoffensive a man, he would not have been restrained in even an asylum in the Province of Quebec.

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