THE ROYAL ALBERT AND EASTERN COUNTIES ASYLUMS.

As a fitting pendant to the foregoing, we would briefly refer to two institutions the Royal Albert Asylum, Lancaster, and the Eastern Counties Asylum. The annual meeting of the former was held in October last at Manchester, and reference was made to proposed changes in the Lunacy Laws,as bearing upon Institutions for Idiots. The Committee of the Asylum will press upon the attention of the Government the necessity for some alteration in the present law. It is held that, in the interest of the education of imbeciles, modifications are needed. As idiots, including imbeciles and feeble-minded, are comprised under "Lunatics" in the Act 8 & 9 Vic., c. 100, children cannot be received into idiot asylums without the certificates, &c., required for lunatics. It is no doubt true that this Act is a bar with many parents to sending their children to educational institutions. We wish every success to this attempt to alter the present Lunacy Act.

In reference to the Eastern Counties Asylum, Colchester, we regret that the long and valued services of the superintendent, Mr. Millard, have now been brought to a close in consequence of failing health. This gentleman's unwearied interest in the work, and the conscientious discharge of his duties for so many years, are well known to our readers, and his name will always be associated with the reforms in the condition of idiots and their education. We rejoice to know that Mr. Millard will, as a member of the Board and House Committee, be able to assist in the management of an institution, the future progress of which he has so much at heart. The Directors have appointed Mr. and Mrs. Williams, of Birmingham, to be Superintendent and Matron, while Dr. W. G. Coombs has been appointed Resident Medical Attendant. Dr. Coombs brings from Peckham House, where he was Assistant Medical Officer, the highest testimonials to his character and fitness for his new post.

RETIREMENT OF DR. MAJOR FROM THE WEST RIDING ASYLUM.

With profound regret the medical profession must witness from time to time the falling out from the ranks of those whose unselfish devotion to duty necessitates a rest from the heat and the toil of the day. The resignation by Dr. Herbert C. Major of the Directorship of the West Riding Asylum is another instance of what so frequently occurs when unswerving integrity conjoined to thorough conscientiousness leads to exertions which overleap themselves and compels the spirit to recognize the laws of flesh. Dr. Major had no light task to accomplish when he accepted the Directorship of an institution which had taken so prominent a position amongst British Asylums. How Dr. Major has fulfilled the task assigned to him, the warm and unanimous verdict of his fellow-workers will sufficiently attest.

Embued with that spirit which best characterises the progressive age in which we live, and which alone can save our asylums from degenerating into huge workhouses, Dr. Major has persistently endeavoured to organize a band of scientific workers, and has by his individual efforts in varied histological research advanced science *pari passu* with the fulfilment of the routine duties of administration, although unfortunately at the sacrifice of his health.

Dr. Major has contributed several memoirs of great value to Neurological Science. We sincerely hope that his retirement from office will leave him leisure for further work in this ever-widening field.

We are glad to see that so excellent a choice of a successor to Dr. Major has been made as that of Dr. Bevan Lewis. We sincerely hope that he may be able to pursue, in no inconsiderable degree, his excellent scientific work, do his duty to the patients, and retain his health and strength.

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