"The 'Journal of Mental Science' for July publishes an article, by Dr. J. G. Kiernan, on 'American Problems in Psychiatry,' illustrated by a study of Cook county insanity statistics. It is a strange mixture of truth and exaggeration, or misstatement, and characteristic of its author. It is a matter of regret to us, as we presume it will be to the neurologists of the United States generally, that the Cook County Hospital, which has been managed by a Committee of the County Board, of which several of the members and the warden of this hospital appointed by that Committee are under indictment for corruption in office, should have been selected as a typical American institution, to be held up to the view of English readers in the year which witnesses the meeting of the International Medical Congress in our national capital. The degree of conscientious adhesion to truth exhibited by Dr. Kiernan in his allegations may be judged by his quotations, as where he represents the Illinois Commissioners, for instance, as having said that 'Dr. Spray deserves credit for having *entirely* dispensed with the use of restraint,' when they said '*almost* entirely;' or where he charges that 'the Illinois county insane are to-day chained, naked, and filthy, in dungeons with only an opening in the door-top for air, light, and heat, through which food is pitched as to a dog,' giving the State Board of Charities as his authority. This charge, which was never true of the insane of Illinois as a class, but only in exceptional instances, is not true 'to-day' of any insane man or woman in any county poorhouse in the State. But the subject deserves no further notice at our hands. His slurs upon the Illinois Board of Charities were fully refuted in our issue of July, 1886."

FORGING CERTIFICATES OF CHARACTER.

Edwin Jones, late porter in the employment of the Worksop Poor Law Guardians, was charged with having on the 6th of October offered his services to the Guardians on the production of a forged certificate of character.—The Clerk to the Guardians (J. S. Whall) prosecuted, and said that the prisoner, among other applicants, presented one from Dr. Jepson, Medical Superintendent of the City of London Asylum. He produced documents which he said were original ones. Dr. Jepson was present, and would give evidence before their worships that he had never written such a certificate in his life, and that the man, instead of being in the asylum four years, had only been in it six weeks, and instead of leaving of his own accord, he was discharged for abstained leave. The following was the certificate produced :—

City of London Asylum, January 15th, 1886.

"I herewith beg to state that Edwin Jones has been here four years. He is an excellent attendant, kind to the patients, steady, sober, intelligent, and trustworthy; and not afraid of work. He leaves of his own accord, and I am sorry to lose him.

OCTAVIUS JEPSON, M.D.

Dr. Jepson swore that he never wrote the letter or any portion of it.—Mr. Beevor: It appears you have attempted a great fraud upon the Guardians of the Worksop Union. You will have to pay a fine of £10 and costs, or in default of payment go to prison for two months.

PENSIONS OF MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS.

On the 9th December a meeting was held at the County Hall, Derby, of the representatives of nine out of 16 Boards of Guardians in the County, in order to discuss with the Visiting Justices of the County Asylum the question of the cost of maintenance of the patients. The meeting originated in the action of Chesterfield, the largest Union in Derbyshire. Dr. Murray Lindsay was present, and was able to show that the cost of patients in the asylum, so far from being excessive, as alleged, was a halfpenny per week less than the average of all the asylums (8) of nearly equal size. The maintenance charge has been reduced

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