Change in the Pagination of the Journal.

It has been decided to change the date at which the year of the Journal commences, and the current number will consequently close the volume for 1889. Hitherto the year began with April. Henceforth it will begin with January. There is a manifest advantage in having the first page of the yearly volume correspond to the first day of the year. Sentiment may suggest that the nature of the malady discussed in our pages renders it appropriate that the Journal should adhere to All Fools' Day; but convenience must in this instance yield to sentiment, and we feel sure that our readers will approve of the course now adopted, and which will in future be pursued. The Index for the April, July, and October issues is made up to date in the present number, and this is another change which will be more convenient, as in binding the Journal it will no longer be necessary to wait three months for the Index. The change from the Old to the New Style may cause some slight temporary confusion in those accustomed to the former, but the ultimate gain will, we are satisfied, more than compensate for this.

PART II.—REVIEWS.

Forty-third Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy.—June, 1889.

This Report again chronicles a steady increase in the numbers of persons of unsound mind under official supervision, and is in no respect less interesting than its predecessors. It has indeed this peculiar interest of its own, that it is the last Report of the Commissioners before the new Lunacy Act, which permits the re-construction of the Board, comes into force.

What influence the "Lunacy Acts Amendment Act" may have in other directions remains to be seen, but it would perhaps not be premature to predict that impossible as it is at present for six visiting Commissioners adequately to discharge the duties in relation to 85,000 insane persons, which are expected of them by a section of the public, the mass of detail and red-tapism which crowds the new Act cannot fail to make any future attempt at doing so a positive absurdity.

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