"There are many lonely and friendless inmates of asylums appreciative of sympathy and kindness, who might be comforted and cheered in ways which cannot now be indicated by friends from 'without;' many who might be encouraged and upheld on quitting their retreat, and renewing life's struggle, by seasonable '*After-care*' exercised on their behalf; nor would such ministries be least among those which help to stablish Christ's Church, and make His name a praise.

"In another communion there exists a society which specially devotes itself to the interests of the infirm in mind. Perhaps in due time some will be found among ourselves to accept a similar charge as their own special work."

[We desire to draw attention to the usefulness of the "After-care Ladies Working Society" in aid of the association of the After-care of poor and friendless female convalescents on leaving the asylums for the insane. The object of this Society is to assist poor female convalescents, after leaving asylums, with gifts of clothing according to the special requirements of each case. The annual subscription is five shillings. Gifts of dresses, &c., are thankfully received. Communications on the business of the Society to be addressed to Mrs. RICHARDSON, Parkwood House, Whetstone, N.; or Miss HAWKINS, Chaplin's House, Colney Hatch, N.—EDS.]

FIRE AT HAYDOCK LODGE, ASHTON, LANCASHIRE.

About half-past nine on Wednesday evening, Feb. 20th, the drying-room adjoining the laundry was discovered in flames. Mr. Beaman and Dr. Shaw were at once told, and the fire bell rung to summon the Asylum Fire Brigade. In a few moments after the discovery of the fire, extincteurs, hand-pumps, and water-buckets were used in order to extinguish it, and the Fire Brigade having very quickly assembled and fixed hose to the hydrants, jets of water were soon playing on the burning part of the building. The wind was blowing almost a gale, and as there was a lot of dry woodwork about the laundry and drying-room, and the linen store adjoined them, the flames spread very rapidly, and gained ground in spite of all endeavours to put it out. The engine was situated immediately under the drying-room, and the floor of the latter soon fell in and stopped the pumps, and thus partly cut off the supply of water. Almost immediately after the discovery of fire, a messenger was despatched to Ashton and another to Messrs. McCorquodale's, of Newton Bridge, to summon the Fire Brigades, and the latter fortunately had a manual engine, which, on its arrival, was at once taken to the fish pond, where there is an abundant supply of water. By this time the fire had made considerable progress, and the most combustible part of the building was destroyed; and as there was now plenty of water the flames were soon got under.

Soon after the fire began, it was thought there was some danger of it extending to the front main block, and Mr. Beaman and Dr. Shaw ordered the building connecting the main block with the part where the fire was, to be knocked down. Dr. Shaw also saw that the patients in the front block were removed to another part of the Asylum, not in any way connected with the burning portion. No excitement was observed amongst the patients, and they were never in the slightest danger.

The laundry was situated in an old wing extending backwards from the main front block, where Mr. Beaman resides, and this old wing, which is the administrative department, was all destroyed with the exception of the kitchen and bakehouse, which were fortunately very little damaged.

Although the building destroyed was very old, considerable damage was done, and it will take several thousand pounds to put up and furnish modern buildings. In the meantime temporary places have been fitted up, and though a great incon-

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.30.129.165 Published online by Cambridge University Press

venience to the staff of the Asylum, the work of the institution has gone on almost as usual.

The origin of the fire is still a mystery. The flames could be seen for miles around, and soon after the fire began several hundreds of people assembled outside the building.

The damage is partly covered by insurance.

A. F. M.

Obituary.

JOHN DALE HEWSON, L.R.C.P. Lond.

In recording in this Journal the death of a well-known member of our Association, the late Medical Superintendent of the Coton Hill Asylum, Stafford, we cannot express the sentiments of those who knew him, better than in the following brief notice which appeared in the "Staffordshire Advertiser":—

The Late Dr. Hewson.—To a wide circle of friends in this county, and also in the county of Wilts, the death of Dr. Hewson, the Medical Superintendent of Coton Hill Asylum, which took place on the 10th inst., has brought deep sorrow and a sense of irreparable loss. He was appointed to his office in 1853, and had just entered upon his 31st year of service. When he first came to Stafford the building at Coton Hill was not completed, but early in 1854 he was prepared to receive his first instalment of patients. He very soon won the entire confidence of his committee, and well did he vindicate that confidence. His skill and devotion brought the place rapidly abreast with the foremost of its class; and now that unfinished pile of brick and mortar which they entrusted to him thirty years ago, his dead hand yields back to them, a full and well-organised institution, second to none in the kingdom. Coton Hill is, in part, a charitable institution, and Charity herself could not have chosen a kinder hand to dispense her delicate and, in such association, her necessarily secret succour than that of Dr. Hewson. He had for many years a most able, devoted, and considerate coadjutor in his wife. He never thoroughly rallied after the shock of her illness and death, which happened about three years ago, but gradually gave way before the inroad of the disease which finally proved fatal to him. He bore the lassitude and utter helplessness of the closing weeks of his life with much placid and often cheerful resignation, and at the last he passed very peacefully away. Dr. Hewson was one of the most genial, generous, and open-hearted of men, and inspired all who were conversant with him with no common degree of attachment to him. He possessed in a wonderful manner the real, though often unconscious, confidence of those under his charge; and if a sympathy which never faltered under the hardening influence of constant familiarity with one of the saddest and most inscrutable of human maladies deserved such confidence, well was he worthy of it.—"The Staffordshire Advertiser," Nov. 19th, 1883.

WILLIAM HENRY PARSEY, M.D., B.A. Lond., F.R.C.P. Lond.

At the County Lunatic Asylum, Hatton, near Warwick, on the 10th of Jan. last, died Dr. W. H. Parsey, for more than thirty years the Medical Superintendent of that Institution. During his superintendency the asylum had doubled or trebled in numbers and size, notably by the erection, some thirteen years ago, as an annexe to the lunatic asylum, of a large separate building for the reception of the idiot and imbecile poor of the county.

Dr. Parsey held the degree of M.D. of the University of London, the Fellow-

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