manship of the Board of Public Works has been followed by the appointment of Mr. Robertson, who succeeds him in that office as well as on the Board of Control.

DR. NICOLSON.

We have pleasure in recording the presentation to Dr. Nicolson, by the officers and staff of the Broadmoor Asylum, of a silver bowl, with appropriate inscription, on the occasion of his resigning his post at that asylum.

OBITUARY.

Dr. Semal.

We regret to have to record the death of Dr. François Joseph Semal, physician and director of the great asylum at Mons, on the 16th May. We hope to give an account of Dr. Semal's life and work in the next number of the Journa..

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

Alleged Increase of Insanity.

Mr. Corbet has given notice of a resolution that "it is desirable that an International Commission be convoked to inquire into this matter."

Sir M. W. Ridley, in answer to a question by Mr. Hobhouse, said that "he had suggested to the Lord Chancellor" that the Lunacy Commissioners should "make special inquiries as to the causes of the increase of lunacy, and embody their conclusions in the next annual report."

Private Lunatic Asylums.

Mr. Corbet (21st February, 1896) asked whether, in view of the recent case in which a sane lady was shut up in a private asylum, the Home Secretary would take any steps for their abolition? The latter, in answer, said that the Lord Chancellor had a Bill in preparation which, among other things, aimed at the improving and extending the precautions against any abuse of the Lunacy Laws.

Irish Pauper Lunatics.

The Poor Relief Bill for Ireland, the Chief Secretary states (24th April), will deal with the detention of lunatics in workhouses.

Deportation of Paupers.

In answer to questions referring to the removal of a pauper from Eltham, in Kent, to Dublin, and of a lunatic pauper from Glasgow to Banbridge, in Ireland, the Chief Secretary said "that that was the subject of communication between the authorities in England, Ireland, and Scotland."

Suicides at Sea.

Mr. Akers Douglas (23rd April) stated, "That the attention of the Board of Trade had been called to the large number of suicides among firemen and trimmers in the mercantile marine, and that further information was being collected."

Habitual Drunkards.

Sir M. W. Ridley (24th February, 1896), in answer to a question by Mr. Pease, said that "a measure for the treatment of this one class of offenders is in preparation, and will shortly, I hope, be introduced."

On April 16th he said, "The Bill is in draft . . . but the details, especially from a financial point of view, require the most careful consideration. . . . I cannot say when I shall be able to introduce it."

Sir M. W. Ridley has also said that the Bill would be founded on the recommendations of the English Departmental Committee on Inebriates.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.42.178.685 Published online by Cambridge University Press