The medical practitioner signing a certificate must set forth, not merely his opinion, but the specific facts indicating insanity, upon which that opinion was formed.

No certificate will be valid unless it contains some fact, indicating insanity, observed by the medical practitioner signing. If other facts are set forth, it must be stated by whom they were communicated.

A partner or assistant is disqualified from signing the second certificate, in the case of a private patient. (See sec. 4, 16 and 17 Vict., cap. 96.)

As to persons otherwise disqualified from signing certificates, attention is particularly directed to the 12th section of the Act, 16 and 17 Vict., c. 96.

If a private patient be, under special circumstances, received with only one certificate, *two other* medical certificates must be procured within three days.

Amendment of Orders and Certificates.—Incorrect or defective orders and certificates may, under section 11, be amended by the person signing the same, within fourteen days after the reception of the patient; but no such amendment will have any legal effect, unless sanctioned by the Commissioners. Such sanction will only be given upon sufficient cause being shewn.

Returns on Admission.—It is essential that returns upon admission be, in every case, made within the seven days limited by the 52nd section of the 8 and 9 Vict., cap. 100; although the orders and certificates may be amended within fourteen days, as before mentioned.

Notice.—If a private patient be received with only one certificate, the "special circumstances" must be set forth in the notice of admission, as well as in the statement subjoined to the order.

Statement.—The report of the medical officer must apply to the condition of the patient, not on admission, but after at least two clear days' observation of the case.

TRANSFER OF PRIVATE PATIENTS.

Private patients may, under the 20th section, be transferred from any asylum, hospital, or licensed house, to another, or to the care of any person, by order of the person having authority to discharge such patient, with the written consent of two of the Commissioners, without the necessity of fresh certificates.

DISCHARGE OF PATIENTS.

Notice of the recovery of a patient is now required, by sec. 19, to be given to his friends or parish officers; and, if he be not discharged within fourteen days, similar notice must be given to the Commissioners and Visitors.

NOTICES OF DEATH.

In addition to the notices hitherto required, a statement, containing the particulars set forth in sec. 19, is to be sent to the coroner, on the death of every patient dying in a hospital or licensed house.

ATTENDANTS.

Notice of the dismissal, for misconduct of any attendant is required, by sec. 26, to be given to the Commissioners. Any resignation, in order to avoid dismissal, must be considered as a dismissal within the meaning of the Act.

The object of this provision is, by means of a central register, available for general reference, to prevent improper persons from being employed in the care of the insane. It is very important that this enactment should be made known to all attendants.

The Commissioners in Lunacy trust that superintendents, proprietors, medical practitioners, and others, will co-operate with them, towards insuring a strict compliance with the provisions of the Statutes; and they desire to impress upon superintendents and proprietors, that it is their duty carefully to examine all orders and certificates, when brought with patients, and, where necessary, to take *immediate* steps to rectify defects and supply omissions.

To prevent any misconception, with reference to the Lunatics Care and Treatment Act, 1853 (16 and 17 Vict., cap. 96), it may be well to add, that the same is only an amending Statute, and that the Act 8 and 9 Vict., cap. 100, remains in force, excepting so far as any of its provisions are expresly repealed, or altered, by the new Act.

By order of the Board,

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE, *Secretary.*

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,

16th Nov. 1853.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

Instructions.—Every medical certificate must be according to the subjoined form,* prescribed by the "Lunatics Care and Treatment," and "Lunatic Asylums" Acts, 1853.

In filling up the certificate, the medical practitioner signing is requested especially to observe the following essential particulars, viz.:

1. After the words "being a," he is required to insert not the word "physician," "surgeon," or "apothecary," but the legal qualification, diploma, or license entitling him to practice as such within the United Kingdom.

The words of the interpretation clause are as follows: "'physician,' 'surgeon,' or 'apothecary,' shall respectively mean a physician, surgeon, or apothecary, duly authorized or licensed to practice as such by or as a member of some college, university, company, or institution, legally established and qualified to grant such authority or license in some part of the United Kingdom, or having been in practice as an apothecary in England or Wales, on or before the 15th day of August, 1815, and being in actual practice as a physician, surgeon, or apothecary."

2. He is required to insert, not only the date and place of examination, but also the place of residence, and profession (if any) of the patient.

3. In any case where more than one medical certificate is required by the Act, he must insert before the words "personally examined," the words "separately from any other medical practitioner."

4. He is required, in order that his certificate may

* See Schedule F, No. 3, p. 25.

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have any validity in law, in every case to set forth the fact or facts, indicating insanity, *observed by himself.*

5. The certificate need not be dated on the day of examination.

Note.—Medical officers of unions or parishes are no longer prohibited from signing certificates in the cases of pauper lunatics belonging thereto.

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE, *Secretary.*

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy, 1853.

To the Editor of the Asylum Journal.

Sir,—The foundation of your Journal under the auspices of the medical officers of asylums, seems to offer me a good opportunity of bringing under the notice of these gentlemen the fact, that the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons, is very deficient in the Annual Reports of these establishments. Such documents are often of great value, and when collected would serve many useful purposes of reference and comparison; while, as far as I know, they are not purchasable.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN CHATTO, *Librarian.*

Royal College of Surgeons, London,
November, 1853.

M. Moreau, one of the Physicians to the Bicêtre, has brought to the test of statistical observation, M. Baillarger's opinion respecting the importance of the inequality of the pupils as a symptom of general paralysis. Of 100 individuals affected with this disease, M. Moreau found the pupils unequal in 58, the pupils were larger than usual in 26, smaller than usual in 18, and of ordinary size in 56. M. Moreau has also observed that in general paralysis, the protrusion of the eye ball was increased in 66 per cent., and that in 31 per cent. the arch of the eye brows was lost, the brows falling over the eyes curling like a moustache.—From the *Annales Medico Psychologiques.*

On Gentleness to the Insane.—WHITTIER.

Gentle as angels' ministry,
The guiding hand of love should be,
Which seeks again those chords to bind
Which human woe hath rent apart,
To heal again the wounded mind,
And bind anew the broken heart.
The hand which tunes to harmony,
The cunning harp whose strings are riven,
Must move as light and quietly
As that meek breath of summer heaven
Which woke of old its melody;
And kindness to the dim of soul,
(Whilst aught of rude and stern controul
The clouded heart can deeply feel,)
Is welcome as the odours fann'd
From some unseen and flowering land
Around the weary seaman's keel!

From *American Journal of Insanity.*

Appointments.

Mr. Francis Moseley, of London, has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Gloucestershire County Asylum, in the place of Mr. John Charles Savery resigned.

Mr. William P. Kirkman, late House Surgeon of the Suffolk County Asylum, has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Devon County Asylum, in the place of Dr. Manley resigned.

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All communications for the forthcoming Number should be addressed to the Editor, DR. BUCKNILL, *Devon County Lunatic Asylum, near Exeter, before the 26th day of January next.*

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