THE ELLIOTT CHARITY.

The following short account of a newly-established charity for the benefit of poor and deserving ex-attendants on the insane in English licensed houses may not be without interest.

Mr. Cyrus Alexander Elliott, formerly proprietor of Munster House, Fulham, by his will dated July 10, 1866, gave so much of the residue of his estate as might be devoted to charitable purposes, upon trust to set apart the same for the benefit of and to apply the income thereof on or towards the relief, maintenance, support, or medical treatment of such poor persons, whether male or female, as should have been employed as attendants on the insane in private asylums only, and as should, whilst so employed, have become incapacitated by sickness, accident, old age, or other infirmity, from continuing in such employment.

This charitable gift did not take effect until 1876. Mr. Elliott's estate was at that time the subject of a Chancery suit, and in 1879 it was declared by the Court that the gift was a good charitable bequest. Considerable delay ensued in winding up the estate, but at length a scheme for the administration of the charity has been duly approved, and it is now in active operation.

In preparing the scheme it was felt desirable to secure the co-operation of the Commissioners in Lunacy, as possessing exceptional sources of information as to the character and antecedents of the persons for whose benefit the charity is intended. With this object the Secretary for the time being of the Commissioners has, with their concurrence, been appointed as one of the two *ex-officio* Trustees of the charity, the other being the Treasurer for the time being of Bethlem Hospital. Four gentlemen, among whom may be named Dr. Rayner, of Hanwell Asylum, are associated with the *ex-officio* Trustees.

We may suppose that the benevolent founder of this charity was incited to such a disposition of his worldly goods by distressing cases coming under his own notice as proprietor for many years of a licensed house; and an upright and conscientious attendant on the insane, if reduced to poverty by no fault of his own, must be admitted by every reader of this Journal to be a person deserving of much consideration.

It will be seen that Mr. Elliott had carefully limited the objects of his bounty to attendants in "private asylums." The testator's expression "poor person" has been interpreted by the Chancery Division in settling the scheme of management to mean a person having no income derived from other sources than the charity exceeding £26 a year, and the operation is restricted to English asylums.

We understand that the available annual income at the disposal of the Trustees will be upwards of £100 a year. It remains to be seen whether a sufficient supply of properly qualified candidates for participation in the benefits of the charity will always be forthcoming.

Obituary.

DR. W. B. GOLDSMITH.

There are many in this country who, from their personal knowledge of Dr. Goldsmith, received the intelligence of his death, which took place on the 21st March, with the deepest regret. During his residence in Britain all who formed his acquaintance entertained for him the most sincere regard, confirmed in the experience of some of us by seeing him in the asylum of which he was superintendent in the United States. A long career of active work among the insane was expected; the last idea present to the mind of the visitor being that that life would be cut short in its prime, for the loss of which such universal sorrow has been felt and expressed. We take the first opportunity of uniting with our co-alienists in America in the profound grief excited by his unexpected and lamented death.

He was educated with the view of taking up the special department of

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