ASSAULT ON DR. MERSON.

We regret to record an assault on Dr. Merson by a patient who had been regarded as harmless. The assault was committed with a cricket bat, after the conclusion of a cricket match, on the ground adjoining the asylum, near the village of Willerby.

Dr Merson was rendered unconscious by the blow, and is still incapacitated from his duties. He is, however, we are glad to report, steadily improving.

THE LIBRARY.

The Library Committee beg to acknowledge the contribution of a large collection of plans of asylums, etc., etc., of interest in relation to the early history of the Association, from Dr. Brushfield.

OBITUARY.

SIR JOHN CHARLES BUCKNILL, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.,

Citizen-Soldier and Psychologist.

Through the death of Sir John Charles Bucknill, a man of "light and leading" has been lost to the profession generally and to the specialty in particular. As a pioneer member of our Association, he actively promoted the study of Psychological Medicine, and was assidious in the diffusion and application of the knowledge thus gained.

It is now upwards of forty-three years since he was appointed the first Editor of our *Journal*, in which capacity, as well as in that of a valued and voluminous contributor to its pages, he has been largely instrumental in improving the status of alienist physicians and in ameliorating the condition of the insane. The task of filling the place left vacant in our ranks by the death of this distinguished man will be one of considerable difficulty.

John Charles Bucknill was born at Market Bosworth, in Leicestershire (on the 25th December, 1817), where his father, Mr. John Bucknill, practised as a surgeon. There was a younger brother (Alfred), who obtained a commission in one of the Sepoy regiments of the East India Company, and died after a few years' service from post-nasal hæmorrhage. His decease was quite unexpected, and a source of great grief to his brother John. He had also two sisters, Louisa and Amelia, and a half-sister, Julia (by his father's second wife), who survives, and who spent many months with Sir John at Bournemouth during his long illness.

Dr. Bucknill was educated at the Grammar School in his native town and at Rugby under the great Dr. Arnold. The charm of that "prophet among schoolmasters," as the Bishop of Hereford calls Arnold, does not appear to have possessed young Bucknill, as he did not complete his course at the famous school.

In 1835 he was entered as a student at University College, London, and five years later took the degree of Bachelor of Medicine at London University, obtaining high honours in both medicine and surgery. Subsequently he became house-surgeon, under Liston, at University College Hospital, where Sir John Eric Erichsen and Sir Richard Quain were among his contemporaries.

In 1842 Dr. Bucknill married Mary Anne, only child of Mr. Thomas Townsend, of Hillmorton Manor, Warwickshire, by whom he had three sons—Colonel Bucknill, late of the Royal Engineers; Mr. T. T. Bucknill, Q.C.,

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