of their duties, and whose opinion will be respected by the intelligent and highly educated men over whose conduct and practice they exercise official control. Should the Commission ever be so unfortunate as to sink beneath the level of professional knowledge existing in asylums, its influence will wane with its reputation.

The appointment of a Secretary in the place of Mr. Lutwidge, is a matter deeply interesting to all who have charge of the insane. Upon it depends whether the numerous communications between the Board and the officials of asylums will continue to be conducted in a spirit of dignified courtesy. In a small and permanent Board the secretaryship is of much less importance than in a numerous and fluctuating one; but in all cases the influence of the ever present officer gives uniformity and consistency to the proceedings, and the difference between a special pleading, hair splitting, crochety secretary, and one of sound and comprehensive judgment would speedily make itself felt. Let us hope that the new secretary will be as like as may be to the old one.

A New County Asylum.

We are informed that the Magistracy of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, and Huntingdonshire have decided at once to build a joint Asylum, and that the purchase of one hundred and fifty acres of land for a site has been voted. Cambridgeshire will be compelled to build for itself.

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