

This vegetable was ultimately decided to be the cause of the disease, and investigations were set on foot thoroughly to probe this theory. It happened that the sewage after being filtered was on the celery beds, and owing to the methods used in cultivating celery, by banking the stalks of the plant with earth, the vegetable provided a very favourable medium for the transmission of the disease. Celery was first used at the Massachusetts Asylum in August, and became quite a common article of diet for the paying patients, the nurses, the house help, and the farm help. The most significant fact of all, however, is that one of the farm servants, not realising the danger of eating celery, and disregarding the injunctions forbidding its use, ate some, and quickly contracted typhoid fever. After orders had been given to stop the further consumption of celery the epidemic immediately subsided.

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#### RETIREMENT OF THE REV. HENRY HAWKINS.

Mr. Hawkins, who is, we believe, the senior chaplain of the English asylums, retires after thirty-two years' service at Colney Hatch, with a previous service of eight years at Haywards Heath.

This long period of service has been distinguished not only by the faithful diligence with which Mr. Hawkins has performed the daily round of duty, but by unbounded sympathy with the suffering poor to whom he has ministered.

His unremitting industry and kindly charity have also led him to take an active part in general movements for the welfare of the insane. The After Care Association was entirely due to his initiative, and to his steady persistence it owed its survival in the earlier stages of its existence. He has been active, too, in promoting other societies for the weal of the insane and asylum workers.

Literary contributions, of value both to physicians, attendants, and chaplains, have also formed another outlet of his never-resting desire to do good.

That he may long enjoy the leisure for other forms of activity, which his retirement will give him, is the sincere wish of the large number of friends with whom he has worked for so many years.

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#### OBITUARY.

##### DR. WILLIAM MARCET.

Dr. William Marcet, who recently died at Luxur, was the grandson of Dr. Alexander Marcet, of Guy's Hospital. His principal scientific inquiries were in regard to respired air, and he also wrote on climatology. To alienists his most interesting work is that on Chronic Alcoholic Intoxication, published in 1860. In this he followed on Huss' work, from whom he differed in laying stress on causes and treatment.

##### MISS MATILDA ROBINS GIDDINGS.

Miss Giddings died on 20th March, 1900, and the event claims mention in this Journal, as possibly marking the severance of the last tie of this generation of asylum workers with the great Conolly. Miss Giddings went to Hanwell in 1850 as an Assistant Matron, having been attracted by the fame of Dr. Conolly. There she had charge of *The Bazaar*, the female work-room, and played the organ in chapel and the piano at dances. Only female patients took part in the dances at that time, and it is a note of interest that the late Dr. Parsey, of Warwick County Asylum, claimed to have been the first to associate the sexes at these entertainments, an innovation which then involved a very great deal of consideration.

Miss Giddings spent three years at Hanwell, and was thereafter appointed Matron at the Perth Royal Asylum in 1853, when Dr. Sherlock undertook the duties of Resident Physician. On his appointment to the Worcester County Asylum in the following year, her sister, Miss Eliza Giddings, who had also served in Hanwell, was asked to become Matron at Powick. Both sisters retired on pensions about eleven years