

Allbutt's *System of Medicine*, Quain's *Dictionary*, and to several Encyclopædias. He has also written many reviews and articles for English and American journals, and published a small text-book on *Mental and Sick Nursing*, which was dedicated by permission to H.R.H. the Princess Christian, and is now out of print. He is now Consulting Physician in Mental Diseases to the London Military Command, with the honorary rank of Major in the R.A.M.C. For helping to raise the standard of nursing in asylums he was elected a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and a Magistrate for the County of Essex in which he lived whilst at Claybury. For ten years he was Hon. General Secretary of the Medico-Psychological Association of which he was elected President in the year 1906. He was also President of the Psychological Section of Medicine at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association held in Swansea. He married the eldest daughter of Sir Owen Roberts, D.L., M.A., D.C.L., B.D., the pioneer of technical education in London, and who was High Sheriff of Carnarvonshire in 1908. On this interesting occasion Sir William Collins acted as best man to Sir Robert. His wife has been his greatest and most sympathetic helper in all his social and public work. We wish Sir Robert and Lady Armstrong-Jones every happiness, and continued opportunities for usefulness in that sphere of work to which they have for so long devoted themselves.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL,  
66, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.  
February 16th, 1917.

DEAR COLONEL LORD,—I have recently received from Dr. F. Sano, the late President of the "Société de Médecine Mentale de Belgique," and Physician-in-Chief of the asylum for acute cases at Antwerp, who has been for some time past engaged at the Maudsley Hospital, the accompanying letter of appreciation of the way in which he and many of his fellow-countrymen and confrères have been received in asylums in this country, and also of the way in which persons of Belgian nationality have been treated in English and Welsh institutions since the outbreak of war.

The Board of Control are desirous that medical superintendents and assistant medical officers of the various institutions in the country should be made acquainted with the sentiments expressed in the letter, and accordingly would esteem it a favour if you could arrange for this letter, and Dr. Sano's communication, to appear in the next issue of the *Journal of Mental Science*.

Yours very truly,

E. MARRIOTT COOKE, *Chairman*.

Lt.-Col. J. R. Lord, R.A.M.C.,  
Horton (County of London) War Hospital.

LONDON, February 1st, 1917.

MR. CHAIRMAN,—At this moment, when large numbers of Belgian patients leave England for France, the chief object of our visit is to tender our thanks to the Board of Control and to the asylums, from whence these patients have obtained such unstinted hospitality.

Undoubtedly the Belgian Government will prove its gratitude to Great Britain in many official and consequently more public capacities, but, in the name of the Belgian doctors who were appointed to British asylums with the permission of the Board of Control, I beg leave to state how grateful we are for all that has been done for the Belgian patients, and how much we appreciate the kindness with which they have been received, the healthy conditions under which they were tended, and the constant attention paid to them by medical superintendents and their staffs.

Our Doctors Deroitte, Maertens, Boulenger, Van de Maele, De Gheldere, Deckx, and myself will still remember the time we passed in the British asylums and the excellent experiences we have had therein. Dr. Deckx has returned to

Antwerp, Dr. De Gheldere has been called to France, Dr. Van de Maele is now on military duty, Dr. Deroitte will be attached to the Belgian Army, and I have been called for medical examination by the British authorities and may soon be required. These are reasons all the more good for us to take this opportunity to express our utmost admiration for the excellent organisation in which we were at work.

I have known the asylums of the Continent for nearly twenty-five years, I have known the patients and their constant demands for food; clothing, freedom, etc., but I think there have never been less claims in that direction than these we have experienced here for the last two years.

I have visited patients at Banstead, Claybury, and Colney Hatch, I have seen many other institutions for my research work, and also private homes where Belgian patients were being cared for, and I have heard everywhere the same admiration expressed, and especially by the families of the patients.

These few words, Mr. Chairman, are very insufficient, in our opinion, to convey all the sincere sentiments which will be preserved by us for the Board of Control and the British asylums, but we trust the future will afford many occasions in which we can recall with gratitude and all sincerity the friendly help of which our countrymen and ourselves have been the recipients in these times of general struggle and severe distress.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) F. SANO, M.D., late President of the Société de  
Médecine Mentale de Belgique.

To Dr. Marriott Cooke,  
Chairman of the Board of Control, London.

In connection with Major Sir Robert Armstrong's paper on "Dreams" a pathetic interest attaches to the following letter received by him from the late Dr. Frederick St. John Bullen, of Bristol, shortly before his death. Dr. Bullen was a talented member of the Association, whom death has all too soon removed from our ranks. He had made a special study of insanity and diseases of the nervous system, and had contributed valuable articles on these subjects to various journals—*Brain*, *Journal of Mental Science*, and others—the last, which appeared in our own Journal, being a paper on the "Interpretation of Dreams according to Freud," which was published in the January number, 1915; and it adds to the pathos of his life that he fell a victim to one of those diseases, progressive muscular atrophy, with which he had specially familiarised himself. It is a rare example of fortitude and utter disregard of self, in the face of rapidly approaching dissolution; and few probably, even of medical men, would have had the courage and self-denial which he displayed in calmly and philosophically reviewing his own case, and giving his experience for the benefit of his fellows when actually within sight of the confines of the great Beyond.

"February 3rd, 1917.

"DEAR DR. ARMSTRONG-JONES,—I am very interested in your forthcoming paper at the Med. Psychol. Meeting on the 15th inst. You may not be averse to receiving some clinical matter, even at the eleventh hour.

"As a rather neurasthenic subject my earlier dreams were often characterised by Fear and impeded Flight. This was so constant as to be typical during childhood. This impaired freedom of muscular thought followed me through life (except for common and perfect 'flying' episodes), and here, in dreams, was but an emphasis of waking life, inasmuch as an invincible self-consciousness has hindered any attempts at public performances—e.g. playing the violin or piano either in solo or concerted works, taking part in discussions, etc.

"In dreams relating to performances on certain musical instruments, in which I was proficient, the facility of execution was *always impaired*, although that of original improvisation (merely ideal) was increased. The outcome of all this is that, after a considerable degree of paralysis of my right hand (from P.M.A.) had been reached, I had two or three dreams in which unwonted freedom of movement in right hand appeared, so real that I awoke with the supposition that the condition had improved. (Reflection on these dreams made me conceive them as of bad omen, for reasons you will at once grasp.)

"Later on, when the muscles of right forearm and upper arm were markedly involved, I had another dream in which a certain feat of violin-bowing (involving those parts) which I had never been able to accomplish in health, 'came off' easily. No more dreams concerning muscular movements have occurred till last night, when I dreamt I was riding a cycle over rough and hilly ground with facility. (I need hardly say that both lower limbs are gravely affected now.)

"Of course, one could interpret these freed ideal movements by Freud's theories; but to me they signify a freedom of ideas from inertia of muscle-representative-movements.

"One knows that dreams are relative to the person having them; *e. g.* in some increased activity of movement prevails; in my case the reverse has been the rule; so that freer ideas of movement (as compared with dreams in health) have come about through destruction of motor cells.

"It would be interesting to hear what cultivated musicians would have to say on this aspect of dreams. I hope to be able to read your paper on the earliest possible occasion, as a bulbar paresis is rather hastening up the progress of my case.

"I hope you will excuse these slipshod notes, but I can hardly speak or write now, and the laborious expression of my ideas hinders their flow. Please make any use you like of this letter."

On March 12th Dr. Bullen, retaining his cheerfulness and dauntless spirit to the last, joined the great majority, passing peacefully away. After his death his widow, who we need not say has our sincerest sympathy, with great kindness and consideration, sent the following extract from further notes regarding his case, which he had written laboriously with pencil, and she had with difficulty deciphered:

"My dreams were recounted, not so much as bearing on Freudism, as illustrative of the freeing of representation of muscular movements by an interruption in the ideo-motor arc; this interruption from cloying effects of projected muscular movements in my case, known to be due to a coarse lesion; in ordinary dreams probably from disordered synapsis. Freud, no doubt, would class these dreams as wish-fulfillments, or substitutions to avoid a painful idea, and to procure and prolong sleep. For myself, I follow the old adage, 'Dreams go by contrary,' *i. e.* dreams, like other cerebral automatic states, consist of a succession of images variant in whole or part to that image by which provoked, and a procession of such automatisms account for many of the subtle enigmas propounded by Freud. My last dream is not without interest. I am addressing a golf-ball, and my drive is accompanied by a slow effort-full swing, on which my comment is: 'How painful an effort; my muscles must be exhausted by influenza.' The ball has travelled, true to waking life, some 20 yards into a furze bush! This dream may be modified, as compared with others, by the fact that one arm only is completely paralysed, and the movement, even if entirely freed from inertia of muscular thought, would never have had the liberty of the movements concerned in music; there being aptitude and dexterity in this, and little or none in golf."

The clarity of thought and reasoning, and the touch of humour in this passage, in one on whom Death had almost already laid his heavy hand, are little short of marvellous. It helps us to realise all the more the loss the profession, and our speciality in particular, have sustained by the demise of such a gifted personality.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

The following notice reached us too late for insertion in the January number. Some of the Lectures have, of course, been already delivered.

*Session, 1916-17.*

A course of seven public lectures on "Psychology in Relation to the War" will be given on Wednesdays at 5.30. p.m. as follows:

*Wednesdays, March 7th and 14th, 1917.*—"The Psychology of the Unconscious and the War Neuroses." By E. W. SCRIPTURE, Ph.D., M.D., late Professor of Experimental Psychology at Yale University.