

mature, he having attained the advanced age of 82. If Dr. Nairne was somewhat formal and distant in his bearing to those having charge of asylums for the insane, we believe that he endeavoured to perform the duties of his post to the best of his ability, with fairness and assiduity, but at the time of his appointment he laboured under the disadvantage of not having had any practical acquaintance with Lunatic Asylums.

JOHN P. GRAY, M.D., LL.D.

We record with great regret the death of Dr. Gray, the superintendent of the New York State Hospital for the Insane. His removal creates a vacant space in American medical psychology which is not likely to be soon filled by a man with like characteristics. Few men possessed more striking individuality, and foes as well as friends will admit that he had enormous force of character and occupied a remarkable position in the United States. We will not go so far as to say *De mortuis, nihil nisi bonum*, but this is not the occasion on which it would be seemly to discuss the right or wrong of the many questions in regard to which he came into fierce conflict with the opinions of others, both in regard to his management of the asylum at Utica or the position he took in the *cause célèbre*, still fresh in the memories of all on both sides of the Atlantic, for the points then raised were of universal interest and importance. In person the terse description often given of Dr. Gray was not by any means inapt, and would no doubt be accepted by his best friends—"the head of Jupiter and the body of Bacchus." It expresses at any rate what caricatures are intended to express, the salient features of the man's character, intelligence, and jollity. In social life he was certainly "jolly," and could tell a good anecdote as effectively as anyone. His lectures on mental disorders were clear and forcible, and retained the attention of the class during their delivery.

We proceed to condense from the obituary in the "Utica Daily Press," Nov. 30th, 1886, some of the particulars of his life:—He was born in 1825 at Halfmoon, Pennsylvania. His first post was that of a resident physician at Blookley Hospital, to which he was appointed in 1849. In 1850 he was appointed third assistant-physician at the New York State Asylum. In 1852 he was promoted to be first assistant, and the health of the superintendent, Dr. Benedict, failing, Dr. Gray was soon after appointed acting superintendent during the illness of that officer. Subsequently the State of Michigan, having determined to erect an asylum, offered the superintendency to Dr. Gray in January, 1854. This he accepted, and prepared a plan of the projected building. In June, however, Dr. Benedict not having regained his health, resigned, and Dr. Gray was appointed to succeed him, July 14th, 1854, and retained the post until his death.

Dr. Gray was a permanent member of the American Medical Association; an ex-President of the Medical Society of the State of New York; a member of the Association of Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane; an honorary member of the Société Médico-Psychologique of Paris; an honorary member of the Società Freniatria Italiana; and an honorary member of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain. In 1874 he was appointed lecturer on psychological medicine and medical jurisprudence in Belle Vue Medical College, New York, and in 1876 he was appointed to the same position in Albany Medical College. He was the second President of the New York State Medical Association, and in that character delivered an address on "Insanity and some of its Preventive Causes." He wrote a paper on "Mental Hygiene," and on "Heredity" among others. In the latter article he opposed the doctrine that insanity is hereditary. "His paper showed that the many thousands of patients who had been in the asylum under his supervision had afterwards become the parents of many more thousands of children, and of these

children none had ever been returned to the asylum insane." Such a sentence tempts criticism, but we pass on to remark that in 1879 Dr. Gray visited this country, Switzerland, and France, inspecting on his journey some of our principal lunatic asylums. After his return home he wrote an article on mechanical restraint, the use of which, under certain circumstances, he has always defended. At the Utica Asylum, however, the amount of restraint was of late much reduced. There can, we believe, be no doubt that Dr. Gray's life was shortened in consequence of the attack made upon him about four years ago. This occurred in March, 1882, soon after he returned from Washington, where he had given evidence in support of Guiteau's soundness of mind. He was shot in the face by one Henry Renshaw, a lunatic. The ball passed through the nasal passages, partly destroying them. He was unable to breathe through the nose until about two years ago, when an operation was performed, which greatly relieved him. He did not, however, fully recover from the shock and the consequent prostration, and in February last the state of his health induced the Board of Management to give him six months' leave of absence. He went to Georgia, and returned to the Asylum in April. He went abroad in July, and remained most of the time at Carlsbad, where the treatment was directed to reduce his corpulency. From thence he wrote to England in good spirits, and looked forward to visiting his friends in London and renewing their acquaintance. This, however, he failed to do, and returned to Utica in October last in apparently good health. A month before his death he caught a severe cold, and had bronchitis. He went, however, to Baltimore on business, and complained on his return of being much tired. About the middle of November his illness assumed a serious form, and it was found that he laboured under renal disease (Bright's). On Saturday, the 27th November, he seemed much better, and remained so on Sunday. About midnight he was worse, and became delirious; and at 3 a.m. on Monday morning, the 29th, he became unconscious, remaining so until 9 a.m., when he recognized one of his sons. Uræmic coma supervened at 10 a.m., and he died without pain at 2.48 p.m.

To the family who mourn his loss we tender our sincere sympathy, and we trust that the Institution over which he presided for nearly 33 years will prosper in the future, and be superintended by an able physician devoted to the insane, who will worthily fill the place rendered vacant by the death of Dr. Gray.

[Since the above was written we have received intelligence of the appointment of Dr. Blumer, the Senior Assistant Physician at the Utica Asylum, and one well qualified for the office of Superintendent.]

THE EAMES MEMORIAL FUND.

The following subscriptions to the Eames Memorial Fund are thankfully acknowledged, and an earnest appeal is made on behalf of the family of our late President for further contributions. The list will not close till February 1st, up to which time further donations will be received by

E. MAZIERE COURTENAY,
Limerick Asylum.

	£	s.	d.
The Medico-Psychological Association ...	10	0	0
Adams, Josiah O., M.D. ...	5	5	0
Atkins, Ringrose, M.D. ...	10	0	0
Baker, Benj. Russell, M.R.C.S....	1	1	0
Beach, Fletcher, M.B. ...	2	2	0
Blandford, George Fielding, M.D. ...	2	2	0
Bower, David, M.B. ...	5	5	0