

cation was received from the Commissioners I wrote for information as to the opinion of the Board, and received the following answer :—

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,  
19, Whitehall Place, 6th April, 1893.

Sir, — In reply to your letter of yesterday I am directed to inform you that when the copy of the recent entry in the Visitors' book of Bethlem Hospital was read at the Board meeting of the Commissioners the Board did not consider that the special kind of dress to which the Visiting Commissioners called attention came within the meaning of mechanical means of bodily restraint as defined by the Commissioners' regulation of the 9th April, 1890.

I am, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
G. HAROLD URMSON,  
Secretary.

It is, of course, important that if a dress of this kind be used for some cases, such as those I have referred to, care should be taken that the movements of the limb and hand should not be at all restrained, and in the event of shrinkage taking place after washing, with shortening of the length of the sleeve, it might happen that the limb or hand could not be fully extended or opened, and then the patient would be "mechanically" restrained. As some who have visited the wards of Bethlem Hospital have considered that such a dress as I have described, although perfectly harmless and often very beneficial to the patient, should be called mechanical restraint, I have thought it well to put on record this authoritative opinion of the Commissioners' Board. It will be noticed that padded gloves, though differing very little from the dress I have described, and leaving the arm, and in many cases the fingers, free to move in every direction, are dignified with the name of "instruments."

B. PRECY SMITH.

#### Obituary.

JOHN HITCHMAN, M.D., ST. AND.; F.R.C.P., LOND.; F.R.C.S., ENG.

Dr. Hitchman was born in 1815, at Northleach, Gloucestershire. Passing through the usual medical apprenticeship and the ordinary course of medical study in London, he obtained qualifications to practise in 1838. His work in lunacy began at Fairford, where he lived for a few years. He was singularly fortunate in his marriage to Miss Iles of that place, a union which was the source of great happiness to both of the persons concerned. Kind, sympathetic, loving, and beloved, she had a benign influence on the life of the deceased physician.

The most important part of Dr. Hitchman's life and work falls naturally into three periods—that spent at Hanwell, that in Derbyshire, and that in subsequent retirement.

Late in the morning of life he obtained the appointment as one of the medical superintendents of the large county asylum at Hanwell. This threw him into contact with Conolly, between whom and himself a lively friendship existed, and whom he always afterwards spoke of with warmth and affection. Whilst there he also did much useful pathological work, and made careful *post-mortem* examinations, at that time so generally neglected in institutions for the insane. He also gave courses of lectures on mental disease, which he delivered at Hanwell, and illustrated by clinical examples in the wards. In that work he was one of the early pioneers in this country. He also contributed a number of articles to the periodicals devoted to the subject of insanity, of which the most important, perhaps, was an attempt at a pathological classifica-

tion of mental diseases. At Hanwell he had as a colleague, or fellow medical superintendent, Dr. Begley, and their friendship was maintained for many years afterwards. Amongst other life-long friendships he made now was one with Dr. J. T. Arlidge, of St. Luke's Hospital, and subsequently of Newcastle-under-Lyme. After having held the appointment there for four or five years, Dr. Hitchman left Hanwell about the beginning of 1851, having been invited to take the superintendency of the Derbyshire County Asylum, which was being built at Mickleover, near Derby. In this way, he brought to a close a prospect containing great possibilities which proximity to the Metropolis offered to one who had entered so vigorously into scientific work as he had.

At the Derbyshire County Asylum he held office for about twenty-one years, and proved himself to be an able medical superintendent, a good administrator, and a humane physician. He started the new asylum well and maintained it in a high state of efficiency. His mental activity now took on a somewhat different phase. Although his reading in medical literature continued to be wide and varied he did not do so much now in original medical investigation, and published only a few articles in the contemporary medical periodicals on his special subject, and these chiefly addresses. But he gave addresses also on the scientific raising and breeding of cattle, and took an important part and place in the Derbyshire Agricultural Society. Latterly, also, he sought exercise and air in coursing, and was an enthusiastic admirer of the sport and of the hounds, in whose honour he wrote a spirited hunting song. Dr. Hitchman also made other contributions to the periodical general literature of his time. He took a good place in the county, and was highly esteemed as a personal friend by many members of his committee. In 1855 Dr. Hitchman took the F.R.C.S., Eng.; in 1858 the M.D., St. And.; in 1859 the M.R.C.P., Lond.; and in 1871 he attained the distinction of being elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. In 1856 he was President of the Medico-Psychological Association. The annual meeting that year was held at Derby, and many years afterwards one who was present spoke of the striking eloquence of Dr. Hitchman's presidential address on that occasion. Having become subject to frequent vertigo and for other reasons he thought it well to retire from his post in Derbyshire. This he did in 1872, and was awarded a well-deserved pension, on the recommendation of the Justices forming the Committee of Management of the asylum, who were very loth to lose his services.

For some three years he now settled in Cheltenham, and then went to live at Fairford, Gloucestershire, where Mrs. Hitchman had many relatives, and where he spent the rest of his life. Here, in 1884, he lost his wife by death, an event which to him was a source of profound grief, and the beginning of greater failure in health. In still later years his afflictions confined him more and more to home, and, in April, 1893, the end came. During this retirement Dr. Hitchman was not idle. He read much, and wrote much, and chiefly on points of controversial theology. Besides many minor contributions on this subject, and public addresses, articles, or published letters on various matters of social interest, he published an important theological work. This he altered, and brought out in a much fuller and different form in 1887, under the title of "Christianity *versus* Ecclesiasticism," (Williams and Norgate, London, 1887). This was the most important literary effort of his life, embodying the results of much thought, and conclusions wrought out by many an inward contention and victory; a well-written work, in which the results of scientific research are skilfully brought to bear on the solution of burning questions.

Dr. Hitchman was a man of good presence and delivery, an able speaker, rising without effort to eloquence, and an effective public reader or lecturer. He was a generous, warm-hearted friend and comrade, full of a large and charitable spirit, and possessed of wide sympathies. His chivalrous nature occasionally led him to write perhaps just a little impulsively when he thought any friend of his had been slighted, or that what he held to be supremely

weighty and important had been treated with indifference or neglect. He belonged to one of the most excellent types of Asylum Superintendents, was a well-read physician, of wide and varied culture, and one who obtained distinction not only in his profession, but also in other spheres.

W. J. M.

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*Appointments.*

BOND, C. H., M.B., C.M.Ed., appointed Pathologist and fourth Assistant Medical Officer to the London County Asylum, Banstead.

CULLINAN, H. M., L.R.C.P. & S.I., appointed Pathologist and third Assistant Medical Officer to the Richmond Asylum.

HILL, E., L.R.C.P.Lond., M.B.C.S., appointed second Assistant Medical Officer to the Leavesden Asylum, King's Langley.

MILLS, JOHN, M.B., appointed Assistant Resident Medical Superintendent of the Ballinasloe Asylum.

OFFORD, J. A., L.R.C.P., M.B.C.S., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Dorset Asylum.

ROBERTSON, W. F., M.B., C.M.Ed., appointed Pathologist to the Royal Asylum, Morningside.

STANSFIELD, T. E. K., M.B., C.M.Ed., appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer to the London County Asylum, Claybury, Woodford.

SYMMERS, W. St. C., M.B.Aber., appointed Pathologist to the County Asylum, Prestwich.

WILLS, E., M.D.Lond., M.B.C.P.Lond., appointed second Assistant Medical Officer to the London County Asylum, Claybury, Woodford.

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NOTE.—The Attendants' Handbook, issued under the authority of the Medico-Psychological Association, will be published in July.