

* * It is *not* right to assume that *all* pauper lunatics should be certified by a Poor-law medical officer, as the magistrate who acts in the case can call to his assistance any medical practitioner he may select for the purpose of certifying for an asylum. As in this case, the practitioner selected for this duty had already become familiar with all facts of the case and details bearing on it, and as our correspondent appears to have had no responsibility of any kind thrown upon him when the patient was sent to the asylum, we fail to see that he can reasonably claim a fee or have any grievance on not having been called upon to earn one.

The certificate which the guardians applied for when the patient was sent home on trial is one he may easily avoid giving, as it is not a duty which can be enforced upon him. Moreover, it would seem better for *all parties concerned* that this certificate should not be filled up, as no good can result from its being brought into operation; it is, on the contrary, quite possible that great inconvenience and something even more objectionable may accrue from it being filled up and made use of. The clause bearing upon it is as follows:

Sub-clause 55 (8) of Lunacy Act, 1890.

- (8) If a person allowed to be absent on trial for any period does not return at the expiration thereof, and a medical certificate certifying that his detention as a lunatic is no longer necessary is not sent to the visitors of the asylum or the manager of the hospital or house, he may at any time within fourteen days after the expiration of the period of trial be retaken as in the case of an escape.

If no certificate of this character is given and a patient out on trial has an unexpected relapse and again requires detention he may at any time during the period of trial or within the lapse of fourteen days of such period be taken again to an asylum without fresh certification—a condition of affairs which would appear highly undesirable to disturb. On the other hand, should such certificate have been once given and forwarded to the managers of the asylum and the patient again require detention further certification and order would be necessary, however urgent the case may have again become. All this involves unnecessary trouble to friends, as well as additional expense to the ratepayers, and in all probability more or less serious delay before the patient can be again put under proper care and treatment.

If these views are correct, it will be at once seen that Poor-law medical officers as well as others may all exercise a wise discretion, and decline to certify to the effect that asylum patients out on trial have practically made a complete recovery from their state of mental derangement, when in many such cases, as is well known, a relapse at any moment may suddenly and unexpectedly supervene.

OBITUARY.

EDWARD LIVEING FENN, M.D., M.R.C.P., J.P.,

EX-PRESIDENT OF THE EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH.

DR. E. L. FENN, of Alston Court, Nayland, whose death occurred on December 8th, was the son of the late Dr. Fenn of Nayland, and was born in Nayland on August 20th, 1843. He was educated at Sherborne College, afterwards entered King's College, London, and qualified in 1865. A painstaking and hard-working student, he was elected to the office of House-Physician at the hospital. From thence he went to Vienna, where he studied for a year, and, returning to Nayland, he joined his father in practice there. On the death of his father he removed to Richmond, Surrey, in 1871, where he took over the practice of Dr. Julius, of the Old Palace, Richmond, in partnership with the late Mr. Bateman. Here for twenty years he carried on an extensive and high-class practice, and was Physician to the Royal Richmond Hospital. In November, 1872, he married Katherine Pauline, daughter of Dr. Julius, and resided at the Old Palace. During his residence in Richmond he took great interest in the public life of the place; he was a member of the municipal vestry and a churchwarden at the parish church. Ill health compelled him to relinquish his practice at Richmond, and he settled down in Colchester in January, 1892, and resided at Grey Friars, East Hill. In February, 1892, he married again, his second wife being

Edith, a daughter of Mr. C. J. Todd, of Richmond, who survives him. In 1893 he was elected Physician to the Essex and Colchester Hospital, where he remained for ten years, and also took a prominent part in the general management of that institution. He carried on a practice as a consulting physician in the town and neighbourhood, having taken the diploma of M.R.C.P. in 1892. In 1903 he finally retired from practice, and settled down in his old family residence of Alston Court, Nayland. In October, 1892, Dr. Fenn was Chairman of the annual dinner of King's College Hospital, and in 1898 he was President of the East Anglian Branch of the British Medical Association. A capital public speaker, he filled both these offices with distinction. Dr. Fenn, who was a Justice of the Peace for Suffolk, was a very fine type of man, and unquestionably an honour to his profession. A dignified gentleman, he was universally beloved and esteemed by all who came into contact with him.

DR. CHARLES ROBERT DRYSDALE, who died at his house at West Dulwich on December 2nd, 1907, in his 78th year, received his medical education at University College, London, and obtained the diploma of M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1858; he took the degree of M.D. St. Andrews in the following year, the diploma of F.R.C.S. Eng. in 1861, and that of M.R.C.P. Lond. in 1862. He subsequently joined the staff of the Metropolitan Hospital, to which he was Consulting Physician at the time of his death; he was also at one time Physician to the North London Hospital for Consumption and to the Farringdon Dispensary. He was early attracted to the study of syphilis, upon which he published a volume in 1872, and was thereby drawn to investigate the evils of prostitution, upon which also he published a book. It was probably the results of these investigations which led to his becoming a militant Malthusian and the President of the Malthusian League. He held his opinions honestly and defended them stoutly, and we cannot withhold a meed of respect from one who sacrificed much in fighting for a cause which does not commend itself to the majority of the profession.

DR. GEORGE HERBERT GRAHAM, whose death occurred on December 5th last, at 14 Old Cavendish Street, was born in 1880 at Denia in Spain. He was educated at Dulwich College and Guy's Hospital, obtaining the diploma of L.S.A. in 1882, and those of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in the two following years. For about sixteen years he was in general practice at Storrington, in Sussex, and then resolved to take up the special branch of electro-therapeutics. In 1901 he took the M.D. Durh., and went to Denmark, where he studied the light treatment under the personal supervision of Finsen. He also made himself a thorough master of every phase of electricity with which medicine is concerned. In 1902 he was appointed Medical Officer to the Electrical Department at the East London Hospital for Children. As the first holder of that post the whole organization of the department fell to Graham's hands, and he rapidly brought it up to a high standard of efficiency. His work was much appreciated by his colleagues, who feel that it will be difficult to fill his place. For a short time, also, he was Assistant Physician in charge of the Electrical Department at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich. All Dr. Graham's work was so excellent that he was rapidly attaining, if he had not already attained, a leading position in his speciality. He was a member of the Clinical Society and on the Council of the Electro-Therapeutic Society, and one of the original Fellows of the Royal Society of Medicine. Dr. Graham was a tall man, of powerful physique, and in the early Eighties was full-back in the Guy's football team, and a sprinter of some note. In the beginning of last summer he was laid up with a large carbuncle, but no glycosuria was found. After convalescing in Cornwall he returned to London in the beginning of September in excellent health. Five days before his death, however, he was seized with what was apparently general streptococcal poisoning, complicated with acute diabetes, and he rapidly sank from diabetic coma. Apart from his professional ability, his earnestness and sturdy honesty gained him the respect of all with whom he was brought into contact, and his death, at the early age of 47, will be widely regretted.