

any other than a religious discourse, and the only one who ever gave a course of lectures on insanity to his patients, and, to the surprise of specialists, these lectures were much appreciated by his audience of about 300 insane people."

It was a source of constant gratification to him that he was one of the thirteen original members of the Association of Medical Superintendents of Hospitals for the Insane, founded in 1844. He is the last of that historic group of earnest mental physicians. He was president of this Association in the years 1884 and 1885. He was the first president of the New England Psychological Society.

Dr. Earle wrote a considerable number of essays and books. Among these are "A Visit to Thirteen Asylums for the Insane in Europe," 1841; "History, Description, and Statistics of Bloomingdale Asylum," 1848; "Blood-letting in Mental Disorders," 1854; "Institutions of the Insane in Prussia, Austria, and Germany," 1854; "Psychological Medicine: Its importance as a part of the Medical Curriculum," 1867; "The Curability of Insanity," 1877; also "A Glance at Insanity and the Management of the Insane in the American States," 1879.

The funeral took place at the Northampton Asylum. Among those present were Prof. Hitchcock (of Amherst), Drs. Scrivener, Page, Stearns, and Mr. F. B. Sanborn (of Concord). The Rev. R. A. Griffin, of the Unitarian Church, took a leading part in the service. He was buried in the Bridge Street Cemetery.

Dr. Earle, as is well known, attracted great attention at one time to the question of the degree to which the insane recover, and caused much surprise, not unaccompanied by incredulity, by demonstrating from statistics that the percentage of recoveries was smaller than supposed, and the proportion of relapses greater. He was foremost in exploding the constant and seductive fallacy of confounding persons with cases, and unfortunately not a few remain unable to understand or appreciate the distinction between the two. He revelled in figures, whether scientific or financial, and, in regard to the former, may be compared to Dr. Thurnam, for whose laborious researches he entertained the greatest respect. In regard to asylum construction, he favoured a departure from the orthodox views current among the old school of American alienists. In this and other respects he was a man of independent opinion. In religion he was broad and Catholic in his views, and a foe to theological intolerance. Ministers of all shades of belief officiated in turn at the Sunday services held in the asylum. His early training "guarded him," observes his friend, Mr. Sanborn, "from some vain controversies and some immoderate ambitions. He followed humbly and sacredly the inner light, with very little desire to set up his own enlightenment as the limit for all other men."

Dr. Earle was an honorary member of the Association, having been elected nearly half a century ago, namely, in 1844.

JOSEPH DRAPER, M.D.

With deep regret we record the unlooked-for death of the greatly-esteemed medical superintendent of the Vermont Asylum, Brattleboro. His friends had hoped for many more years of service from this excellent man, whose earnest nature, strength of character, and kindness of disposition eminently qualified him for the post which he held. Pliny Earle died in the course of nature in ripe old age, but Dr. Draper long before the age which men count fit, for he was born in 1834, and therefore only 58. He came of a New England family, and was educated in the common schools, and subsequently academies in West Brattleboro', and Deerfield, Mass. He was 22 before he fully decided to qualify for the medical profession. He attended lectures in New York and Philadelphia, where he graduated in 1858. When practising at Greenfield, Mass., he met

with a case of insanity which excited his interest, and brought home to him the fact that he knew little or nothing of the disorder. He wrote for information to Dr. Rockwell, of the Vermont Asylum, and expressed a desire to study mental disorders practically. There was at that time no vacancy, but in October, 1859, he became the assistant medical officer, and remained there till 1865. Shortly after leaving he acted as an assistant surgeon in the military hospital at Brattleboro'. Subsequently he went to the Worcester Asylum in the capacity of assistant physician, and for one year acted as superintendent. Later on he was an assistant medical officer in the New Jersey Asylum, where he resided until the year 1873, when he was appointed superintendent of the Vermont Asylum. Here he found his true vocation, and those who visited him there could not fail to be struck with the admirable manner in which he conducted it. He took a warrantable pride in the improvements which were carried forward under his auspices, including the opening of the Hillside Park, the Summer Retreat, and the Cottage. It may be doubted whether any asylum grounds are more beautiful than these.

In 1881, the year of the International Medical Congress, he visited London, and impressed his English *confrères* with his sterling character. It is stated in an obituary notice that "the opportunity for observation and study in his specialty was improved to the utmost, and Dr. Draper came home filled with more zeal and enthusiasm than ever for the development and increased usefulness of the asylum. Believing always in every possible outdoor help and diversion as a main curative agency for the patients in his charge, almost his first act on returning home was to bring before the trustees a proposition for the establishment of a retreat separate from the main institution, such as he had found widely used by the best institutions in England and Scotland, where patients who were in a condition to be benefited by the change might find in summer relief from the home asylum life, just as well as people seek at this season a summer outing or a vacation. The idea was favourably received; the well-known 'Miles-place' was bought for this purpose, fitted up during the summer of 1882, and was first occupied as a summer retreat for a short time at the close of that season. The advanced step thus taken was an important one, and in this respect the Vermont Asylum led every institution for the insane in the United States. So satisfactory did its operation prove that five or six years later the estate now known as the Cottage was bought and fitted up for a similar retreat for the male patients, the summer retreat having been necessarily used for women alone."

Dr. Draper was a clear and practical writer. He wrote papers on "The Pathology of Insanity;" and on "Hysteria;" "Responsibility of the Insane in Asylums," as also on their responsibility outside asylums. His "Annals of the Vermont Asylum for the Insane" covered the history for the first half-century of the asylum, and appeared in 1887, and reflects great credit upon his ability as a writer.

From our personal knowledge of Dr. Draper we can speak in the strongest terms of our appreciation of and esteem for him, both as a man and as a superintendent, and fully realize the truth of the tribute paid to his memory in the words, "To have enjoyed for almost twenty years the confidence and the intimate friendship of a man thus broadly fashioned has been an inspiration, and its memory is now a benediction for which no emotion but of profound gratitude can be felt."

In the funeral address the minister stated—"He loved Brattleboro' with an ardent, growing love. He said to me, 'that notwithstanding all the associations and beauties of Europe, he would rather live there than any other place.' He was wide in his sympathies, and rejoiced in every improvement which added to the material and to the mental or moral advancement of the village and people he loved. . . . He was an earnest Unitarian, and he held his belief, not as an inherited legacy, but as a vital and personal conviction."

It is suggested that the asylum trustees should cause the erection of an enduring monument to his memory in the form of a tower on the pinnacle of the mountain-side opposite the village of Battleboro', which has been secured by the asylum. We hope that this idea, which he himself desired to be carried out in his lifetime, will be effected now that he has passed away.

PROFESSOR VALDEMAR STEENBERG.

This well-known Danish alienist, the amiable and hospitable President of the Psychiatric Section at the International Congress in Copenhagen, 1884, died the 2nd of March. He was born in 1829, and had an extensive general medical education. As house-physician at the Communal Hospital in Copenhagen, he wrote his first essay on "Syphilitic Affection of the Brain" (1860). In this book, he, the first—as later on Heubner in Germany—pointed out the great importance of the arteriosclerotic changes of the cerebral vessels for the syphilitic encephalopathy. Later on the ætiology of the general paralysis of the insane attracted his highest interest, and he was one of the very first to become an almost fanatic champion for the nowadays so generally admitted theory of a syphilitic origin; and not only he himself defended this doctrine energetically, but he inspired several of his pupils (Jespersen, Rohmell, Jacobson*) to take up the cudgels. So early as in 1863 he was appointed the medical superintendent of the large Danish Asylum, St. Hans, a place he filled to his death, viz., more than 30 years. In this long period he was always a faithful, never-wearied partisan of modern liberal ideas relative to the treatment of lunatics, and he carried through a long series of enlargements and improvements of the asylum. His conduct towards his patients was almost ideal, and he was a thoroughly humane man, lenient and indulgent in his judgment, and benevolent towards all with whom he was connected. Rightly he was the object of a real worship on the part of the insane as well as the sane. His qualification for psychiatry and the development of the lunatic institutions in Denmark will never be forgotten.

PROFESSOR MEYNERT, VIENNA.

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Dr. Theodore Meynert, the distinguished head of the Psychiatric Clinic in the University of Vienna, which took place unexpectedly at his country house at Klosterneuberg on May 31st, at the age of 59. He had been in bad health for a long time, and during the last months of his life had been unable to discharge the duties of his chair. The immediate cause of his death was pneumonia. Professor Meynert's researches on the anatomy of the brain and his writings on medico-psychological subjects had made his name familiar to alienists and neurologists throughout the world. He was born at Dresden in 1833, and educated at Vienna, where he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1861. He was for several years demonstrator of anatomy under Hyrtl. He was appointed *Privat-docent* in 1865, and, turning his attention to the clinical study of insanity, soon won for himself a leading position in that department of medicine. Professor Meynert was President of the Psychiatric Association, Vice-President of the Vienna Medical Society, and a member of the Superior Sanitary Council of Austria. Only a few days before his death he had been elected a member of the Imperial Academy of Science of Vienna, and it was expected that he would have been chosen as Rector Magnificus of his university next year. In him the Vienna School loses one of its most conspicuous figures, and medical science one of its most zealous and most independent cultivators.—*British Medical Journal*, June 11, 1892.

* See "Journal of Mental Science," April, 1892.