

get an answer that you may be guided to tell the truth, as I have been guided to ask you if it is a delusion (note, he had heard me call it a delusion before the magistrates). If I have taken the poor woman's life innocent may the Lord have mercy on my soul, and the poor innocent soul that has gone up. Till yesterday, or rather to-day, it would have been dangerous for you and me to have met. As I am, to-day my sufferings are only beginning. Her guilt was holding me up. When I thought about it I could immediately answer myself, feeling justified doing it." . . . "Answer all truthfully, as God will be your judge some day." To my mind this indicates that about this time three weeks of abstinence, rest, and regular exercise were beginning to have their natural effect, and his mental balance was being restored. D. M. C.

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*Obituary.*

DR. JOHN W. SAWYER.

Dr. Sawyer recently visited this country, and to those who became acquainted with him in connection with his inspection of asylums it will be a cause of great regret to learn that so soon after his return to America his life was cut short, and his useful career as Medical Superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, Providence, Rhode Island. He succeeded the celebrated Dr. Ray in 1867. During the nearly twenty years which have elapsed since his appointment he had discharged the duties of his office to the entire satisfaction of all concerned; and those who have visited this institution can bear witness to the proofs of his administrative capacity and the kindness of his heart. The trustees of the hospital speak the simple truth when they say that "his manners were gentle and winning; his character was marked by singular modesty, united with gentle firmness of purpose, by rare good judgment, by manly independence, by self-denying benevolence, by unflinching devotion to the duties he was called upon to perform. He has died at a moment the most unexpected, of which those who loved him had received no premonition, and when his plans were broadest and his hopes were highest, in the full meridian of his usefulness and his renown. The trustees mourn his loss, not alone as a loss of an accomplished and faithful superintendent, eminent in his profession and honoured in the community, but also as the loss of a personal friend, endeared to them by the graces which adorn his character, and by the noble and generous services which filled his daily life."

Dr. Sawyer was born at Danvers, Mass., Nov. 5, 1834, and received his medical education at Hartford University, where he graduated as Doctor of Medicine in 1859. He filled the office of assistant-physician at the Butler Hospital for the first two years, under Dr. Ray. After practice in Boston for a short time, he became assistant-superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane at Madison, Wisconsin, where he remained during the six years preceding his appointment at Providence. About ten days before his death Dr. Sawyer attended a maniacal case with a view of a removal to the Butler Hospital. The patient, a strong, athletic young man, clutched the doctor by the throat, and it required the policemen in attendance to drag him off. Although Dr. Sawyer never mentioned the accident to his physician, there appears to be no doubt that it was the immediate cause of his death. The cellular tissue of the neck was infiltrated, involving the submaxillary glands, which had previously been somewhat enlarged. It became necessary to perform tracheotomy, but death followed a few minutes after the operation, Dec. 14, 1885, at the age of 51. His loss will be

severely felt in the institution which he superintended, and by the American alienists.

He has been succeeded in his office by Dr. Goldsmith, the late superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane at Danvers, who has many friends in Britain who will wish him success in the performance of the duties which have thus unexpectedly fallen to his share. Butler Hospital is once more fortunate in the possession of a wise and zealous medical superintendent.

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DR. JOSHUA HUSBAND WORTHINGTON.

Another American physician has gone to his rest, not prematurely, as in the case of Dr. Sawyer, but at the age of 69. In 1842 Dr. Worthington became resident physician of the Frankford Asylum near Philadelphia, conducted by the Society of Friends, and became its superintendent in 1850, an office which he filled until 1877, so that he was connected with the institution for 35 years. He was born in 1817, in Hartford county, Maryland, and received his medical education at the Jefferson Medical College, graduating there as Doctor of Medicine in 1838, after which he practised his profession in his native place. Dr. Worthington "was a member of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, and a prominent member of the American Medical Association, and was identified with all the important local and State Associations, serving as Vice-President of the State Medical Society in 1859. He became distinguished in his treatment and studies of insanity and his contributions to the literature of the institution were liberal and valuable. In connection with Dr. Charles Evans, from 1843 to 1850 he published eight reports of the Frankford Asylum, and after that for some years became their sole publishers." To this statement of the "American Journal of Insanity" (Jan., 1886) it may be added that after his retirement he lived quietly at Baltimore, and at German Town, Philadelphia, where he died Dec. 27, 1885.

Dr. Worthington was one of the kindest of men, and was beloved by the patients under his charge. In his general views of asylum construction, and the provision for the various classes of the insane, he could hardly bring himself to approve of much that has been proposed or adopted during recent years. He was eminently conservative, and in a letter written to the writer shortly before his death he expressed his apprehension lest the movement largely carried forward by laymen for the protection of the insane in the States would not prove disadvantageous, as well as advantageous, in the true interest of the insane by prejudicing the public mind against institutions for the insane. Possibly he did not fully recognise the fact that all entrusted with the guardianship of the insane do not possess the same kindness and consideration for their welfare as has characterised himself; and was, therefore, hardly aware of the danger of abuses in asylums unless constantly looked after by outsiders, although in many instances forming an incorrect judgment, and in some doing an injury to the class they desire to benefit. Be this, however, as it may, Dr. Worthington performed his own duties faithfully; and his memory will long be cherished, alike by his old patients and by his friends both in England and America.