

## THE ELLIOTT CHARITY.

The following short account of a newly-established charity for the benefit of poor and deserving ex-attendants on the insane in English licensed houses may not be without interest.

Mr. Cyrus Alexander Elliott, formerly proprietor of Munster House, Fulham, by his will dated July 10, 1866, gave so much of the residue of his estate as might be devoted to charitable purposes, upon trust to set apart the same for the benefit of and to apply the income thereof on or towards the relief, maintenance, support, or medical treatment of such poor persons, whether male or female, as should have been employed as attendants on the insane in private asylums only, and as should, whilst so employed, have become incapacitated by sickness, accident, old age, or other infirmity, from continuing in such employment.

This charitable gift did not take effect until 1876. Mr. Elliott's estate was at that time the subject of a Chancery suit, and in 1879 it was declared by the Court that the gift was a good charitable bequest. Considerable delay ensued in winding up the estate, but at length a scheme for the administration of the charity has been duly approved, and it is now in active operation.

In preparing the scheme it was felt desirable to secure the co-operation of the Commissioners in Lunacy, as possessing exceptional sources of information as to the character and antecedents of the persons for whose benefit the charity is intended. With this object the Secretary for the time being of the Commissioners has, with their concurrence, been appointed as one of the two *ex-officio* Trustees of the charity, the other being the Treasurer for the time being of Bethlem Hospital. Four gentlemen, among whom may be named Dr. Rayner, of Hanwell Asylum, are associated with the *ex-officio* Trustees.

We may suppose that the benevolent founder of this charity was incited to such a disposition of his worldly goods by distressing cases coming under his own notice as proprietor for many years of a licensed house; and an upright and conscientious attendant on the insane, if reduced to poverty by no fault of his own, must be admitted by every reader of this Journal to be a person deserving of much consideration.

It will be seen that Mr. Elliott had carefully limited the objects of his bounty to attendants in "private asylums." The testator's expression "poor person" has been interpreted by the Chancery Division in settling the scheme of management to mean a person having no income derived from other sources than the charity exceeding £26 a year, and the operation is restricted to English asylums.

We understand that the available annual income at the disposal of the Trustees will be upwards of £100 a year. It remains to be seen whether a sufficient supply of properly qualified candidates for participation in the benefits of the charity will always be forthcoming.

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*Obituary.*

## DR. W. B. GOLDSMITH.

There are many in this country who, from their personal knowledge of Dr. Goldsmith, received the intelligence of his death, which took place on the 21st March, with the deepest regret. During his residence in Britain all who formed his acquaintance entertained for him the most sincere regard, confirmed in the experience of some of us by seeing him in the asylum of which he was superintendent in the United States. A long career of active work among the insane was expected; the last idea present to the mind of the visitor being that that life would be cut short in its prime, for the loss of which such universal sorrow has been felt and expressed. We take the first opportunity of uniting with our co-alienists in America in the profound grief excited by his unexpected and lamented death.

He was educated with the view of taking up the special department of

medicine of which he proved to be so able and hard-working a member. He graduated at Amherst College, Mass., and then studied medicine under Dr. Chapin, the Superintendent of the Willard Asylum, where he remained a year. In 1877 he passed the examination of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. He spent, subsequently, two years acquiring knowledge in the hospitals in London and Edinburgh.

In response to our request, Dr. Clouston has jotted down his reminiscence of Dr. Goldsmith when he acted as assistant medical officer during several months at Morningside:—"He threw himself into the work with the intensest enthusiasm. He evidently was most anxious to learn all he could about the treatment of patients in Scotland. His mind was open, and a most candid one. I always enjoyed in going round the wards with him an argument about our system as contrasted with the American plan. I very well remember we happened to have in the department of which he had temporary charge a young lady suffering from the most violent acute mania. She was deliriously excited, very homicidal, and had a sort of unnatural strength for the time. To give her daily walks it always took four or five good attendants, specially accorded her, during the worst part of her attack. Dr. Goldsmith and I discussed, while standing by her and her staff of attendants in the garden one day, most fully, the whole question of Restraint and Seclusion *versus* Freedom in the presence of the terrible symptoms presented by this poor girl. He said that in every asylum in America she would have been either placed in a seclusion room or in some way mechanically restrained, possibly both. I asked him, 'Well, now, you see what we do. What do you think of it?' His reply was: 'Your treatment is the most humane, provided that you have good attendants and plenty of them; and, moreover, are not afraid if any accident does occur, but in that "if" lies the whole question between you and us.'

"Dr. Goldsmith was a man not only likeable, but loveable in his personal disposition. He had a quiet, kindly manner, was full of a certain dignity and self-restraint, and was a gentleman to the backbone.

"He got on well with his colleagues, he governed the staff as if he were no stranger, and he was greatly beloved by his patients. He had the scientific and clinical spirit in a high degree. He never sank the doctor in the manager. He was always present at the post-mortem examinations, and was an extensive reader of general neurological research. During my visit to America, when Dr. Goldsmith met me at the Danvers Asylum, I experienced that feeling one always has towards an old colleague with whom one has lived in daily association."

Dr. Goldsmith studied also in Germany, including Vienna, where he studied under Meynert. On his return he became Assistant Medical Officer at the Bloomingdale Asylum, New York, whose superintendent, Dr. Nichols, quickly recognized his worth, and became warmly attached to him. He writes: "I feel the death of Dr. Goldsmith more than I can tell. He seemed to me almost like a younger brother. His was one of the strongest, most symmetrical, best rounded, and most complete characters I have ever known. How much he had achieved at 34! What promise he gave of future usefulness and fame! I find it difficult to be reconciled to his death." Dr. Goldsmith, on his part, looked up to Dr. Nichols as his teacher and friend, and consulted him in after years when in want of counsel as to his course in life. At the early age of 28 he was appointed Superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane at Danvers, Mass., where he threw all his energies into that large institution, and was esteemed by all with whom he came in contact. He was a frequent visitor at the house of the poet Whittier in the neighbourhood, and was a great admirer of the man and of his poetry. We have reason to know that Whittier reciprocated the feeling of Dr. Goldsmith. There he remained until the death of Dr. Sawyer, which created a vacancy in the office of Superintendent of the Butler Asylum, Providence, Rhode Island. Dr. Nichols it was