

when this generation of paupers dies out I think it probable that the number of patients will decrease, or at least remain stationary.

Dr. CONOLLY NORMAN made a communication on "An Ancient Form of Physicians' Register," which he exhibited.

A short discussion followed, in which most of those present joined, and the meeting terminated.

OBITUARY.

OSCAR THOMAS WOODS, M.D., PAST PRESIDENT M.P.A.

We have to chronicle with much sorrow the death, at a comparatively early age, of our genial colleague, our President of 1901-2, Oscar Woods of Cork.

Dr. Woods was a native of Parsonstown in the King's Co., where his family have long been settled and have been held in much esteem. It has been observed that Parsonstown, which is a military depôt, has rarely been without a member of the family in command. Dr. Oscar Woods' uncle, Dr. Thomas Woods, practised in the town for more than fifty years, and being possessed of a keen scientific mind and a very capable pair of hands, was of much service to the late Lord Rosse in constructing his great telescope. He was also a pioneer in photography, and it is interesting to note that he gave their first lessons in this art to a couple of his young fellow townsmen who took it up as a trade, one of whom became afterwards one of the best known photographers in the world.

Oscar Woods was a graduate of the University of Dublin. He began his studies in insanity, like so many men of his time, at the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield. He then went to the Warwick Asylum, where he soon rose to be senior assistant medical officer. We have heard—and it speaks well for the kindness of his heart—that there are still surviving patients and members of the staff who, after the passage of more than thirty years, remember him and speak of him with affection.

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland appointed Dr. Woods superintendent of the asylum at Killarney in 1875, and fifteen years later, in 1890, he was appointed superintendent at Cork, where he died on August 2nd, 1906, æt. 58.

Dr. Woods in his earlier years was a frequent attendant at quarterly and annual general meetings, and to the end was an industrious attendant at the Irish divisional meetings of our Association. His contributions to the *Journal* were thoughtful and well expressed, though less numerous than they would have been could he have commanded more leisure and more detachment of mind. As a superintendent he was a very hard-working and devoted man, thoroughly absorbed in his work, most kind to his patients, and always thinking first of their interests. In everything he was an upright gentleman.

His life was probably shortened and his later days were certainly clouded by many troubles. His eminent services to the insane did not save him from calumny and inconceivable annoyances. Readers of this *Journal* do not need to be reminded of some of these, but only the students of the local newspapers could credit the perpetual vexations in which he lived. This sort of thing told upon him very severely, for he was a sensitive man, and being conscious of none but the highest motives felt intensely the treatment he received. Recently he suffered under domestic troubles of a severe nature—the death in quick succession of a bright and hopeful son and of his eldest daughter—which he felt acutely, for he was of a most affectionate nature.

Those who were present at the Cork meeting in 1901 will recall how successful and pleasant it was and how well organised, how genial and agreeable our President, who did not allow his own worries to interfere with his duties either at the meeting or in the delightful excursion which followed it. In the words of the Irish poet—"He forgot his own griefs to be happy with you." His kindly nature gladdened when he saw enjoyment in those around him. No one could then have supposed that his subsequent life would have been so short.

Dr. Woods was interred in his family burial place at Parsonstown among the friends and neighbours of his youth. His sons, brothers, cousins, and many other friends followed him to the grave, including one or two old chums of college days.
Vale, longum vale.