

CREATION OF A ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE IN BELGIUM.

THE King of the Belgians, by a decree, dated Paris, Sept. 19, 1841, has instituted a Royal Academy of Medicine in Belgium. The objects for which the academy has been instituted are stated to be,

1st. To assist the government in all questions relative to public health, legal medicine, and veterinary medicine.

2d. To promote such researches and investigations as are calculated to advance the different branches of the healing art.

The academy is divided into six sections, viz. 1. General and comparative anatomy and physiology; 2. Medical and pathological anatomy with therapeutics; 3. Surgical pathology, operative medicine, and midwifery; 4. Public health, medical police, toxicology, and legal medicine; 5. *Materia medica*, pharmacy, and medical chemistry; 6. Veterinary medicine.

The rules for the government of the academy, and its mode of constitution, are fully detailed in the ordinance.

[The advantages of an institution of this kind, in connexion with the executive, are too obvious to require setting forth here; and we feel firmly convinced that due attention would be paid to this important subject, were it brought before the government in a *proper* form, and by *proper* persons.

There is no body of medical men in this country, which contains so many of the elements of an "academy of medicine" as the Medico-Chirurgical Society, and we would here suggest to the council of that body the propriety of taking up this subject, earnestly and with energy.—Eds.]

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS

OF

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

THE first annual meeting of the members of this Association was held at the Lunatic Asylum at Nottingham, on the 4th of November, 1841, and subsequent days.

There were present—Dr. Blake, (in the chair,) Nottingham Asylum; Dr. Corsellis, of Wakefield; Dr. Crommilink, Bruges, Belgium; Mr. Gaskell, Lancaster Asylum; Dr. Hitch, Gloucester; Dr. Pritchard, Northampton; Mr. Powell, Nottingham; Mr. Prosser, Leicester; Dr. Shute, Gloucester; Mr. Smith, Lincoln; Mr. Thurnam, York Retreat; the Rev. R. W. Wilson and Thomas Close, Esq., Governors of the Nottingham Asylum, Visitors; and Dr. Bowden, Hanwell, Visitor.

The minutes of the meeting held at Gloucester having been read,

It was resolved—1. That the governors of the

institution, at which the association shall hold its meetings, be invited by the medical officers thereof to be present at the discussions.

2. That in the resolution, No. 3, of the meeting of July 27, 1841, the expression "Medical officers attached to hospitals for the insane," be meant to include medical gentlemen attached to private, as well as public, asylums.

3. That gentlemen desirous of becoming members of the association, be proposed by two members, for election by ballot; and that notice of such proposition be sent by the secretary to each member one month previous to the time of election.

4. That ballot papers be furnished by the secretary to each member of the association, which shall be filled up, and either transmitted to the secretary, or deposited with him at the time of meeting.

5. That at the election, a majority of two-thirds shall be requisite for the admission of each candidate.

6. That in the resolution, No. 4, of July 27, the word official be added to that of legal.

7. That Dr. Shute be requested to act as treasurer.

8. That the annual meetings be held on the first Thursday in June of each year.

9. That Dr. Shute, Dr. Corsellis, Mr. Thurnham, and Dr. Hitch, be a committee, to consider the best form of registers and tabular reports, as recommended in the resolution, No. 8, of July 27.

10. That this association, as it may think proper, shall select as honorary members, gentlemen, whether medical or otherwise, who shall have distinguished themselves by the particular interest they have exhibited in the subject of insanity.

11. That Mr. Samuel Tuke, of York; Mr. Farr, of London; Dr. Bowden, of Hanwell; and Dr. Gislain, of Ghent, be now elected honorary members.

12. That the annual subscription be one guinea, to be paid in advance at the annual meetings.

13. That it is desirable that plans be collected by and for the association of all hospitals for the insane: and that such consist, as far as possible, of elevations, ground plans, sections, drains, means of warming and ventilating, &c. &c.; and that they be accompanied with descriptions of the site, soil, neighbourhood, &c., of the hospital; and that they be reduced to a scale of forty feet to one inch.

14. That without pledging themselves to the opinion that mechanical restraint may not be found occasionally useful in the management of the insane, the members now present have the greatest satisfaction in according their approbation of, and in proposing a vote of thanks to, those gentlemen who are now engaged in endeavouring to abolish its use in all cases.

15. That the chairman be requested to express to the Secretary of State the opinion of this meeting, that for the benefit of the insane poor, the word dangerous should be omitted from the 45th section of the Poor-law Amendment Act, when that measure shall be again introduced to the consideration of the honourable members of the House of Commons.

16. That the warmest thanks of the association be offered to the governors and medical officers of the Nottingham Asylum, for their kindness in