

Mr. Geoffrey Hawkins, a brother of the deceased peer, about forty years ago practised in Toronto in partnership with Mr. Columbus Greene.

### *LUNATICS AND THE RACE PROBLEM.*

The report of the Commissioners in Lunacy in England is not very comfortable reading. The commissioners themselves, it is true, strike a somewhat cheerful note, but their figures are hardly reassuring. The percentage of insane patients continues to increase. As regards numbers only, there was a rise in 1906, though it was smaller than in the three previous years. On the basis of population, however, the ratio of officially declared insane subjects was higher than in any other recorded year.

The number under care on the 1st January of this year was 123,988 or 2,009 more than on the corresponding day of last year. The increases for the past few years over each preceding one have been respectively 2,150, 2,630, and 3,235; and the annual average increase for the last ten years has been 2,462, for the last five 2,655.

Again, the ratio of notified insane persons per 10,000 of the population shews a progressive increase. For the year 1906 it was 35.48, which represented an increase of 0.48 on the ratio of the preceding year. In other words, the total number of certified insane persons in England and Wales stood to the estimated population in the proportion of one in 282, whilst the actual numerical increase was 1.64 per cent. Taking the decennial period, the increase in the whole population during the decade was 12.1 per cent., and in the numbers of certified insane it was 24.8 per cent. Lunacy, therefore, seems to be growing faster than the population; but here the commissioners deliver a warning.

There are factors, to be considered (they say), which render it impossible to determine whether the actual proportion of