

ing to care for the interests confided by the Province to his charge intelligently, faithfully and economically. As an administrator he had few superiors, and those who knew him will ever bear witness to his singularly clear judgment in all relating to hospital affairs. He had long been regarded as one of the leading authorities on the subject of mental disease, and his services as an expert were sought in most important cases where sanity was in question. In these his wide knowledge of medicine and of human nature always showed to advantage, his opinions ever commanding the attention and respect alike of judge and jury. His confrères' appreciation of his abilities as an alienist was evinced by his selection, in 1897, to preside over the Psychological section of the British Medical Association, which met in Montreal, and by his election, in 1898, to the Presidency of the American Medico-Psychological Association. He also held the professorship of mental and nervous diseases in the Western University at London.

To Dr. Bucke is due the introduction into Canada, in 1883, of the absolute non-restraint system, which is now the accepted principle in the treatment of the insane throughout nearly all American institutions. This fact is of special interest and worthy of record, inasmuch as at that time nearly every superintendent on the continent regarded the doctrine of absolute non-restraint as purely utopian, and to be ridiculed accordingly. Today scarce one is bold enough to advocate the use of mechanical restraint, except for surgical or other very exceptional purposes.

Another important reform in Canadian asylum management inaugurated by Dr. Bucke was the discontinuance, as a beverage for the patients, of all beer, wine and spirits. In this step he was largely influenced by the precepts and teachings of his friend Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson. In recent years, too, he had devoted much time and thought to the benefit of systematic gynaecological surgery in the treatment of insane women, a large proportion of whom he maintained were sufferers from uterine or ovarian disease that could be benefited by operation. His published results in this respect show the urgent necessity for always removing physical disease, where it exists, as a step toward the possible relief of mental alienation.