

INDEX TO VOL. XLIV.

PART I.—GENERAL INDEX.

- Acroparæsthesia, 157
Acute mania in a boy, 320
Adams, Mr. R., retirement of, 221
After-care Association, Annual Meeting, 328, 448
 " " reminiscences of, 299
 " of the insane in America, 409, 616
Aim of modern education, 171
Alcohol, influence on muscular activity, 867
Alcoholic insanity simulating epilepsy, 492
 " intoxication in children, 463
Alcoholism and insanity, 597
 " and suicidal impulses, 259
 " effects on nervous system, 341
 " mismanagement of, 711
American psychiatry, 406
 " retrospect, 169, 386, 616
Amnesia after hanging, 864
 " and mind-blindness, 170
Amusements and recreation, question of, 197
Amusia, 863
Analgen, 185
Analysis of 131 criminal lunatics, 64
 " of causes of insanity in 1000 patients, 500
Anisine, 389
Anthropological data in asylums, 235
Anthropology, 802
Anthropometric data of the ear in the insane, 241
Aphasia, 581
Appointments, 230, 458, 672, 896
Asylum abuses, 424
 " attendants, aspirations of, 197
 " " badges for, 196
 " life, risks of, 450
 " news, 445, 893
 " reports, 192, 856
 " *versus* hospital, 836
 " Workers' Association, 661
Asylums and the Government, 332
Ataxy, 370
Atkins, Dr. R., death of, 453, 675
Atypical and unusual brain forms, 17
Auditory disturbances in nervous diseases, 598
Auto-infection in the insane, 627

Bacteriological researches in acute delirium, 626
Baltimore asylum, 339
Bannister, Dr., progress of psychiatry in America, 406
Belgian asylums and the Belgian Government, 416
 " retrospect, 412
XLIV.

- Bianchi, Prof., Italian retrospect, 417
 Biology, cellular, 778
 Blood in insanity, 801
 Blushing, obsession of, 402
 Boarding out of harmless lunatics, 657
 Bond, Dr. C. H., American retrospect, 169, 386
 Bones, fragility of, in insane, 450, 672, 296
 " spontaneous fractures in locomotor ataxy, 404
 Brain cell degeneration, 387
 " " structure, new Nissl method, 698
 " concussion of, simulating delirium tremens, 95
 " deficiency of corpus callosum, 860
 " innervation of the vessels of, 863
 " localisation of mental processes in, 1
 " pathological histology of the choroid plexuses, 744
 " sarcoma of, removal, 179
 " specific gravity of, in insane, 700
 " surface morphology, 17
 Bresler, Dr., German retrospect, 422
 British Association at Toronto, 215
 " Medical Association and its Council, 328; meeting at Montreal, 210;
 mental evolution, 210; pelvic disease in women and insanity—after effects of
 surgical procedure—reflexes in psychiatry, 211; heredity and insanity—acute
 melancholia—physical and mental disease—inebriety—insanity and the State,
 212; degeneration of nerve-cells—the subconscious mind—active treatment of
 general paralysis, 213; the nose and sexual apparatus, 214
 Annual Meeting at Edinburgh, 825
 Bucknill, Sir John C., 104
 Cairo asylum, 660
 Calomel, sedative effects of, 177
 Cane, Sir E. du, on criminal treatment, 655
 Cardiac deficiency as a cause of insanity, 868
 Care and education of weak-minded and imbecile children, 474
 Carlyle, his wife and critics, 76
 Case, Mr. H., death of, 893
 Cerebellum, anatomy of, 578
 Cerebral cortex, structure of, 577
 " diplegia, 386
 " lobes, intellectual value of, 290
 Child, an extraordinary, 398
 Children, abnormal, and their education, 414
 " defective, and imbeciles, 557, 568, 655
 " insanity in, 459
 " weak-minded and imbecile, care and education of, 474
 Chlorhydrins, action of, 186
 Chorea gravis, 811
 Cigarette, a brief for, 623
 " description of, 401
 Colitis, 526
 Commissioners in Lunacy, reports of, for England, 113
 " " " for Scotland, 126
 Complimentary presentations to Dr. R. Adams and Dr. Nathan Raw, 221
 " Prof. Ludwig Meyer, Dr. G. Marriott Cooke, Sir J. Batty
 Tuke, 451
 Concussion of brain simulating delirium tremens, 95
 Confidentiality, medical, 325

- Confusion, primitive mental, 159, 167
 Corpus callosum, significance of deficiency of, 860
 Correlation of sciences in psychiatric and neurological research, 754, 825
 Correspondence—
 From Dr. Reid, on electric lighting, 219
 " Mr. Townsend, on electric lighting, 220
 " Dr. Percy Smith, 893
 " Dr. W. B. Smith, Victoria, N.S.W., 663
 Cortex cerebri, changes in, 424
 " of a criminal paranoiac, 420
 Cortical nerve-cells, histology and pathology of, 729
 Cowan, Dr. F. M., Dutch retrospect, 424
 Crime and criminals, 865
 " and hypnotism, 625
 " and insanity, 845
 Criminal anthropology, 607
 " Evidence bill, 567, 827
 " law reform, 324
 " lunatics, 64
 " responsibility, 614
 " treatment, 655
 Criminality in Russia, 610
 Criminals, insanity among, 612
 " physical development of, 611
 " stigmata of degeneracy among, 607
 Criticism, evil of irresponsible, 111 .

 Danish asylums for feeble-minded, 45
 " retrospect, 426
 Darenth scandal and scapegoat, 322, 570
 Deaf and dumb institution in Holland, 54
 Defective children and imbeciles, 557, 655
 Délire généralisé, 416
 Delirium tremens, artificial production of illusions, 866
 " concussion simulating, 95
 " paraldehydicum, 178
 Differential diagnosis between lues cerebri and dementia paralytica, 869
 Disinfectant, formalin as, 205, 330
 Disinfection of dwelling-rooms, &c., 393
 Divining rod for water, 352
 Dodswell, Rev. H. J., case of, 450
 Drunkards, mismanagement of, 711
 Dutch retrospect, 424

 Ear in the neurotic, insane and criminal, 241
 Early treatment clause, 558
 Edinburgh district lunacy board, 218
 Education, aim of modern, 171
 " of the central nervous system, 368
 Effect of poisons on nerve-cells, 173
 Egyptian asylum, Cairo, 199
 Electric lighting, 219
 Ellis, Dr. Havelock, retrospect of criminal anthropology, 607
 " " of physiological psychology, 372
 Elmira reformatory, 613
 Emotions, psychology of, 147
 English retrospect, 624
 Enteric fever in asylums, 329

- Epiblast, congenital aberrations of, in insane, 819
 Epidemic in Warwick asylum, 446
 Epilepsy, hot-hair baths in, 190
 „ nature of, 427
 „ sclerosis of cornu Ammonis in, 169
 „ stigmata of, in insane criminals, 421
 „ surgical treatment of, 180
 Epileptic and alcoholic insanity, 492
 „ insanity, case of, 892
 „ jaundice, 395
 Epileptics, home for, 51
 „ statistical data concerning, 427
 Erotomania in early life, 467
 Evil of irresponsible criticism, 111
 „ of unrestricted zeal, 112
 Evolution of general ideas, 148
 Exaltation and depression, physiology of, 381
 Fatigue in schools, 449
 Fishes, memory of, 231
 Flechsig on localisation of mental processes, 1, 215
 Fleming, Dr., English retrospect, 624
 Food, refusal of, in the insane, 62
 Formalin, use of, 205, 330
 Fractures of bones in insane, 101
 Fragility of bones in insane, 450, 672, 296
 French retrospect, 395, 410
 Friendly societies and insanity, 217
 Friis, Dr., Danish retrospect, 426
 General paralysis, active treatment of, 213
 „ „ aetiology of, 410, 868
 „ „ apoplectiform and epileptiform attacks, 397
 „ „ diagnosis of, 410
 „ „ eye troubles in, 157
 „ „ prodromal period, 156
 „ „ reflexes in, 417
 Genius, insanity in men of, 847
 German asylums, guide to, 844
 German retrospect, 422, 860
 Giant-cells of the motor cortex in the insane, 507
 Government and lunatic asylums, 332
 Graves' disease, treatment of, 391
 Greene, Dr. R., resignation of, 447
 Habitual Inebriates bill, 566
 Hackney union case, 659, 890
 Hæmatoporphyria, case of, 305
 Hallucinations, 165, 619
 „ and illusions, 358
 „ isolated, 865
 Handbook for attendants, 571
 Harward v. the Hackney Guardians, &c., 327
 Haughton, Prof., death of, 222
 Hawkhead asylum, sewage disposal, 707
 Headache with visual hallucinations, 619
 Headaches, localisation of, 583
 Hearing in nervous diseases, 598

- Heidenheim, Dr. Rudolf, death of, 228
 Hemerania, its connection with epilepsy and hysteria, 842
 Hereditary predisposition, 196
 Heredity and insanity, 212
 " in insanity of children, 460
 " in relation to mental disease, 538
 " normal and pathologic, 593
 Higgins, Dr. W. H., death of, 222
 Holmboe, Dr., Norwegian retrospect, 428
 Hot-air baths in epilepsy, 190
 Howden, Dr. J. C., death of, 223
 Hydrocephalus in adult life, 387
 Hyperamnesia, 156
 Hypnotic suggestion, 400
 Hypnotism and crime, 625
 " and will-making, 831
 " in court, 569
 " practical application of, in medicine, 603, 833
 Hypochondriasis, 156
 Hysteria in children, 470
 " post-epileptic, 818
 " treatment of, 188
 Hysterical attacks, loss of consciousness in, 403
 Illegal reception of lunatic, 890
 Illusions, artificial production in delirium tremens, 866
 Imbecile children, care and education of, 474, 557
 Imbeciles, industrial training of, 531
 " training schools for, 45
 Immunity, acquired, 594
 Imperative ideas and related phenomena, 366
 Impulses, 592
 Incest, 853
 Incipient insanity, temporary treatment of, 108
 Incontinence of urine in insanity, 344
 Increase of insanity, alleged, 113, 195, 326
 Inebriates bill, 325, 566, 828
 Inebriety, 212
 Influence of alcohol on muscular activity, 867
 Influenza and isolation, 449
 " and melancholia, 198
 Inhibition, phenomena of, 172
 Innervation of vessels of the brain, 863
 Insane ear, 241
 " nursing of, 415
 " osseous system in, 295
 " poor in private dwellings, 439
 " provision for, in Belgium, 415
 " psychological examination of, 412
 " refusal of food by, 62
 Insanity among criminals, 612
 " and acquired syphilis, 277
 " and pelvic disease, 211
 " and penal servitude, 271
 " and the State, 212
 " caused by cardiac deficiency, 868
 " " marital indifference, 198
 " chirurgico-gynæcological treatment of, 188

- Insanity, delusional, 155
 " hereditary predisposition to, 196 (see also *Heredity*)
 " in children, 459
 " increase of, 113, 195, 326
 " in 1000 patients, analysis of, 500
 " scientific investigation of, 754
 " similarity between epileptic and alcoholic, 492
 Insomnia, treatment of, 393
 " wet pack in, 395
 Intemperance a sign of insanity, 196
 International Medical Congress at Moscow, 214
 Ireland, Dr., German retrospect, 173, 860
 " report of inspectors of lunatics, 134
 Irish Local Government bill, 334, 559, 654
 " lunatics, chargeability, 331
 " " pauper, 106
 Italian retrospect, 188, 417, 626
 Jaundice, epileptic, 395
 Jaws among degenerate classes, 609
 Joint troubles in locomotor ataxy, 404

 Katatonia, 389
 Kryofin, a new antipyretic, 390

 Laboratories, pathological, 406
 Laboratory of the Scottish asylums, 450
 Lactophenin, poisoning by, 391
 Laughter, psychology of, 382
 Lavage in refusal of food, 62
 Law of settlement, 829
 Lead poisoning, 833
 Lenticular nucleus, function of, 399
 Lindell, Dr., Swedish retrospect, 430
 Lues cerebri, 869
 Lunacy bill, 555, 640, 646, 829
 " certificates, 830
 Lunatics at large and public press, 110
 " wandering, 449
 Luys, Dr. J. B., death of, 227

 Macevoy, Dr., French retrospect, 395
 Male nurses, temperance co-operation, 661
 Mania, acute, in a boy, 320
 " in children, 469
 Manning, Dr. Norton, retirement, 664
 Marshall, Dr. W. G., death of, 224
 Masturbation in children, 463
 Medical confidentiality, 325
 " responsibility, 599
 Medico-legal cases—
 Reg. v. Marriotini, 216
 Commission v. Shaw, 216
 Friendly societies and insanity, 217
 Law and insane murderers, 218
 Howard v. Hackney Guardians, 327
 Reg. v. Prince, 438
 " v. Cross, 439

Medico-legal cases—continued.

- Barnett v. Blagg, &c., 439
- Hypnotism in court, 569
- Crichton v. Ferguson, 888
- Bristol Royal Infirmary v. Artett, 888
- Reed, &c., v. Solicitor to the Treasury, 888
- Barker v. Barker and Dearsley, 888
- Donald Ross v. W. Ross's trustees, &c., 889
- Spence v. Spence, 889
- Browning v. Green, 889
- Re Charles Clarke, 889
- „ Earl of Sefton, 889
- „ Lamond, 889
- Harward v. Hackney Guardians, 890
- Reg. v. Irving, 890
- „ v. Weaver, 891
- „ v. English, 891
- „ v. Murphy, 891
- „ v. Norris, 892
- „ v. Woolford, 892

Medico-Psychological Association—

- General meeting in London, November, 1897, 200
- South-Eastern division at Northampton, October, 200
- Northern and Midland division, York, October, 202
- South-Western division, October, 202
- Proposed special pathologist, 203
- Compulsory pensions, 203
- Scottish division, November 1st, 204
- The use of formalin, 205
- Cortical nerve-cells in insanity, 206
- Adjourned meeting, November 27th, 209
- Suggestions of Education Committee, 209
- General meeting at Sheffield, February, 1898, 432
- Vote of condolence on death of Dr. Wallis, 432
- South-Western division, 433
- Discussion on Dr. Goodall's paper, 433
- Scottish division, March, 1898, 434
- Expenses of secretaries, 435
- Fatal Accidents Inquiry Act, 436
- Amended regulations for nursing certificates, 437
- General meeting in London, May, 1898, 632
- South-Western division, April, 633
- Nursing certificates, 634
- Compulsory pensions, 637
- South-Eastern division at Wandsworth, April, 638
- Regulations for nursing certificates, 639
- Lunacy bill, 641
- Northern and Midland division at Manchester in May, 643
- Regulation for nursing certificates, 643
- Lunacy bill, 646
- Irish division, April, 1898, 654
- Local Government bill, 654
- Presidential address, 673
- Annual Meeting at Edinburgh, July, 1898, 821, 875
- Treasurer's report, 876
- Election of officers, 876
- Parliamentary Committee's report, 878

- Medico-Psychological Association—**
 Annual Meeting at Edinburgh—
 Educational Committee's report, 881
 Prevention of insanity, 884
 Excursions, 885
 Annual dinner, 886
Melancholia, acute, 212
 " an analysis of 3,000 cases, 621
 " caused by influenza, 198
 " certain physical signs in, 247
 " delusions in, 168
 " in children, 468
Memory and its cultivation, 854
 " of fishes, 231
Mental derangements of old age, 870
 " diseases, Belgian official classification, 414
 " evolution, 210
 " hygiene, 365
Mescal, effects of, 449
 " intoxication, phenomena of, 183
Metopismus, 584
Micro-photography, 174
Mismanagement of drunkards, 711
Mitchell, Sir A., the insane poor in private dwellings in Massachusetts, 439
Morison lecture, 215
Morrison, 363
Morphine habit of long standing cured by bromide poisoning, 187
Moscow, international medical congress at, 214
Nerve-cells, cortical, in insanity, 206
 " degeneration of, 213
 " effect of poison on, 173
 " specific functions of and histo-pathology of, 424
 " structure, by a new Nissl method, 693
Nervous and mental maladies, 214
 " " " phenomena following surgical operations, 181
 " shock, pathological anatomy of, 419
 " system, changes produced by want of sleep, 630
 " " histological study of, 216, 424, 693
Neurasthenia, 620, 841, 846, 850
 " wet pack in the insomnia of, 395
Neurology, comparative, 773
Neurotic men of genius, 847
New Italian journal, 629
Nissl method, a new, 693, 816
Normal histology and pathology of the cortical nerve-cells, 729
 " " of the nervous system, 765
Norwegian retrospect, 428
Nose and sexual apparatus, 214
Nursing certificates, examination for, 228, 634, 639, 643
 " of the insane, 415
Obituary—Atkins, Dr. Ringrose, 453, 675
 Case, Mr. Henry, 893
 Hart, Mr. Ernest, 456
 Haughteim, Prof., 222
 Heidenheim, Prof. Rudolf, 228
 Higgins, Dr. W. H., 222

- Obituary—Howden, Dr. J. C., 223
 Luys, Dr. J. B., 227
 Marshall, Mr. W. G., 224
 Scholes, Dr. R. B., 894
 Sheppard, Dr. E., 225
 Smith, Mr. R. G., 227
 Voisin, Dr. Auguste, 895
 Wallis, Dr. J. A., 452, 665, 675
- Obsession, 162, 166
 " and imperative ideas, 411
 Old age, mental derangement of, 870
 Optic thalami, physiology of, 421
 Origin of number forms, 383
 Osseous system in the insane, 295
 Overwork causing insanity, 892
- Paraldehydicum, delirium tremens from, 178
 Parathyroid glands, 628
 Pathological institute for investigation of insanity, 755
 " laboratory of Scottish asylums, 105
 Pathology, bacteriology, and physiological chemistry, 783
 " experimental, 792
 " in the London County Asylum, 104
 " of the nerve-cells, 173, 206, 213, 424, 507
- Pellotin as an hypnotic, 184
 Pelvic disease in women and insanity, 211
 Penal servitude and insanity, 271
 Pensions, compulsory, 203, 637
 Phenacetin poisoning, 185
 Phesin and cosaprin, new drugs, 391
 Physical and mental disease, 212
 Physiological psychology, retrospect of, 372
 Physiology of exaltation and depression, 381
 Porencephaly, 625
 Premature discharges and increase of lunacy, 326
 Press on lunatics at large, 110
 Priest and physician, 834
 Prison reform, 828
 Private patients, provision for poor, 108, 131, 144
 " " success of, in asylum, 194
 Pseudo-bulbar paralysis, 157
 Psychological methods for the examination of the insane, 412
 Psychology and psycho-pathology, 756
 " of laughter, 382
 " of religion, 372
 " scientific, 151
 " the new, 585
 Puberty in relation to anthropology, psychiatry, education, and sociology, 350
 Puerperal psychoses, 156
- Quebec Medico-Psychological Society, 893
 Questions likely to be put to medical witnesses, 891
- Rainhill Asylum, enlargement of, 218
 Raw, Dr. N., presentation to, 221
 Reception-houses for insane, 568
 Reflexes in psychiatry, 211
 Relieving officers and alleged lunatics, 659

- Religion, psychology of, 372
 Report of Commission in Lunacy, England, 113
 " " " " Scotland, 126
 " of Inspector of Lunatics, Ireland, 134
 Researches on reaction time, 384
 " upon school children, 377
 Resignations of Dr. Greene, Dr. T. A. K. Strahan, and Mr. Mitchell, 448
 Responsibility, the idea of, 614
 Retirement of Dr. Norton Manning, 664
 Retrospect of physiological psychology, 372
 Rigor mortis, statistics relating to disappearance of, 74
 Robertson, Dr. W. F., Italian retrospect, 188, 626
- Sainsbury, Dr. H., therapeutic retrospect, 177
 Sanitary appliances, 451
 Sarcoma of brain, successful removal, 179
 School children, researches upon, 377
 Sciences, correlation of, in psychiatric and neurological research, 754
 Sclerosis of the cornu Ammonis in epilepsy, 169
 Scopolamine as a calmative in insanity, 394
 Scotland, growth of insanity in, 218
 " report of commission for, 126
 Scottish asylums, laboratory of, 105
 Seclusion, treatment of insane without, 423
 Sedative effect of calomel in large doses, 177
 Self-accusing persecution, 411
 Semelaigne, Dr. R., French retrospect, 410
 Senile psychoses, 419, 870
 Serum in nervous and mental diseases, 412
 Sewage disposal at Hawkhead Asylum, 707
 Sexual impulse, 347
 " inversion, 162
 Shakespeare, study of insane characters, &c., in, 838
 Sheppard Asylum, Baltimore, 339
 " Dr. E., death of, 225
 Sleep after dinner, 175
 " its physiology, pathology, hygiene, and psychology, 605
 " want of, effect on nervous system, 630
 Smith, Dr. R. G., death of, 227
 Speech, functional interdependence of the cortical centres, 581
 Spermin, 389
 Spinal cord, extension of, in tabes, 182
 Spleen extract, therapeutic value of, 624
 Statistics relating to the disappearance of rigor mortis, 74
 Straits Settlements asylum, 109
 Study, excess of, active cause of insanity in children, 462
 Subconscious mind, 213
 Subconsciousness, 586, 852
 Suggestion and auto-suggestion, therapeutics of, 401
 Suicidal impulses and alcoholism, 259
 Suicide in early life, 468
 " sociologically, 588
 Surgical operations, after effects of, 181, 211
 Swedish retrospect, 430
 Syphilis and insanity, 277
 " of the nervous centres, 342
- Tabes, 369

- Tabes, true extension of spinal cord in, 182
 Tactile amnesia and mind-blindness, 170
 Tattooing, 864
 Temporary treatment of incipient insanity, 108, 659
 Therapeutic retrospect, 177, 389
 " value of spleen extract, 624
 Thyroid body, innervation of, 602
 " extract, treatment of insanity by, 158, 193
 " gland, action of, on growth and obesity, 399
 Time, unconscious estimation of, 175
 Tuberculin, 392
 Tumour of the frontal lobes, 420
 Ulcer, perforating, treatment of, 183
 Unfortunate middle classes, 661
 Uric acid as a cause of disease, 590
 Urine, estimation of toxicity, 191
 " hæmatoporphyrin in, 305
 " incontinence of, 344
 Urquhart, Dr. A. R., Presidential Address, 673
 Vascular reflexes in limbs and brain, 421
 Visits to Danish asylums, &c., 45
 Visual disturbances with dwarfish and giant growth, 865
 Wallis, Dr., death of, 452, 665, 675
 Wandering lunatics, 449
 Warfare, suggestion in, 396
 Water-finding by divining rod, 352
 Weak-minded children, care and education of, 474
 Weak-mindedness, 535
 Wet pack in insomnia, 395
 Will-making and hypnotism, 831
 Wills, making of, by certified patients, 96
 " " by insane, 888, 889
 Xerostomia, or dry mouth, 622
 Yew poisoning, 313

PART II.—ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

- Ambler, Dr. J. R., a case of concussion of the brain simulating delirium tremens, 95
 Beach, Dr. Fletcher, insanity in children, 459
 Blachford, Dr. J. V., statistics relating to the disappearance of rigor mortis, 74
 " " analysis of insanity in one thousand cases, 500
 Briscoe, Mr. J. F., notes on a case of fracture of the fibula in a melancholic patient, with remarks on treatment in fractures generally, 101
 " " the osseous system in the insane, 295
 Campbell, Dr. K., a case of hæmatoporphyrinuria, 305
 " Dr. Alfred, colitis, 526
 Carswell, Dr. J., the care and education of weak-minded and imbecile children in relation to pauper lunacy, 474
 Clapham, Dr. C., a note on the comparative intellectual value of the anterior and posterior cerebral lobes, 290
 Clinch, Dr. T. A., a case of chorea gravis, 811

- Crichton-Browne, Sir J., Carlyle, his wife and critics, 76
- Crookshank, Dr. F. G., clinical cases, 818
- Dawson, Dr. W. R., the relation of acquired syphilis to insanity: a critical digest, 277
- Douglas, Dr. A. R., penal servitude and insanity, 271
- " " remarks upon the term weak-mindedness, with observations upon the need of definite nomenclature for cases of congenital mental defect which are not certifiable as imbecile or insane, 535
- Farquharson, Dr. W. F., heredity in relation to mental disease, 538
- Findlay, Dr. J. W., observations on the normal and pathological histology of the choroid plexuses of the lateral ventricles of the brain, 744
- Geddes, Dr. J. W., a case of chorea gravis, 811
- Giesen, Dr. I. Van, the correlation of sciences in psychiatric and neurological research, 754, 825
- Goodall, Dr. E., the systematic collection of anthropological data in asylums, 235
- Greenwood, Mr. H. H., lavage in refusal of food by the insane, 62
- Hawkins, Rev. H., reminiscences of "After-care" Association, 1879—1898, 299
- Hearder, Dr. F. P., an analysis of 131 male criminal lunatics admitted to the West Riding Asylum, &c., 64.
- Ireland, Dr. W. W., Flechsig on the localisation of mental processes in the brain, 1
- " " visit to Danish asylums for the feeble-minded and other institutions, 45
- Lord, Dr. J. R., the collecting and recording of descriptive and anthropometric data of the ear in the neurotic, insane, and criminal: a new method, 241
- " " a new Nissl method: normal cell-structure and the cytological changes terminating in fatty degeneration, &c., 693
- McIntosh, Dr. W. C., note on the memory of fishes, 231
- Mickle, Dr. W. J., atypical and unusual brain-forms, especially in relation to mental status: a study on brain-surface morphology, 17
- Morton, Dr. W. B., notes of a case introducing a discussion on the making of wills by certified patients, and the duties of medical men in regard to this, 96
- Noott, Dr. R. H., points of similarity between epileptic and alcoholic insanity, 492
- Orr, Dr. D., histology and pathology of the cortical nerve-cells, 729
- Pierce, Dr. B., notes on a case of yew poisoning, 313
- Ray, Dr. M. B., case of acute mania occurring in a boy, 320
- Robertson, Dr. W. F., and Dr. D. Orr, the normal history and pathology of the cortical nerve-cells (especially in relation to insanity), 729
- Shuttleworth, Dr. G. E., the industrial training of imbeciles, 531
- Simpson, Dr. F. O., the specific gravity of the insane brain, 700
- Stoddart, W. H. B., certain physical signs in melancholia, 247
- Sullivan, Dr. W. C., alcoholism and suicidal impulses, 259
- Turner, Dr. J., remarks on the giant-cells of the motor cortex in the insane examined in a fresh state without hardening: a contribution to the pathology of the nerve-cell, 507
- Urquhart, Dr. A. R., the Presidential Address delivered at the fifty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, held at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, on the 21st July, 1898, 673
- Watson, Dr. W. R., sewage disposal at Hawkhead Asylum, 707
- Wilson, Dr. G. R., the mismanagement of drunkards, 711

PART III.—REVIEWS.

- Année psychologique, 146
 Année sociologique, 853
 Allison, Dr. H. E., Methods of securing health for insane convicts, 606
- Ballet, Dr. G., Leçons de clinique médicale—psychoses et affections nerveuses, 154
 Barine, Dr. Arvède, Névroses, 847
 Barrett, Professor W. F., On the so-called divining rod or virgula divina, 352
 Bibby, Mr. G. H., The planning of lunatic asylums. The housing of pauper lunatics, 607
 Benedikt, M., Quelques considérations sur la propagation des excitations dans le système nerveux, 592
 Brian, Dr. Eugène, L'innervation du corps thyroïde, 602
 Brouardel, Dr. P., La responsabilité médicale: secret médical declaration de naissance; inhumations; expertises; médico-légales, 599
 Buschau, Dr. G., Metopismus, 584
- Charbancix, Dr. P., Le subconscient chez les artistes, les savants, et les écrivains, 586
 Chaslain, Dr. Ph., La confusion mentale primitive, stupidité, démence aiguë, stupor primitive, 159
 Christison, Dr. J. S., Crime and criminals, 855
 Clark, Dr. A. Campbell, Manual of mental diseases, 356
 Collet, Dr. F. J., Les troubles auditifs dans les maladies nerveux, 598
 Cornelius, Vons Hans, Psychologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, 151
 Cross, Dr. R., Results of thyroid feeding in insanity, 158
- Dana, Dr. C. L., Text-book of nervous diseases, being a compendium for the use of students and practitioners, 583
 Darin, Dr. H., Rapports de l'alcoolisme et de la folie, 597
 Debierre, Professor Ch., L'hérédité normale et pathologique, 593
- Féré, Dr. Ch., La descendance d'un inverti: contribution à l'hygiène de l'inversion sexuelle, 162
- Gadelius, Dr. B., Om trangstankar och dermed beslagtade fenomen, 366
 Gattel, Dr. F., Ueber die sexuelles Ursachen der Neurasthenie und angstneurose, 850
 Gilles de la Tourette, Les états neurastheniques, 846
 Giufforda-Ruggeri, Dr. V., Sulla dignità morfologica dei segni detti degenerativa, 596
 Green, Dr. F. W. E., Memory and its cultivation, 854
- Haeckel, Prof. E., Le monisme, lieu entre la religion et la science: profession de foi d'un naturaliste, 363
 Haig, Dr. Alex., Uric acid as a factor in the causation of disease, 590
 Halleck, Dr. R. P., The education of the central nervous system, 368
 Hallervorden, Dr. E., Abhandlungen zur Gesundheitslehre der Seele und Nerven. I. Arbeit und Wille, ein Kapitel-klinischer Psychologie zur Grundlegung der Psychohygiene (treatises on the hygiene of the mind and nervous system), 365
 Hewetson, Mr. H. B., The localisation of headaches and sick headaches, 583
 Holmes, Mr. T. V., On the evidence for the efficacy of the diviner and his rod in the search for water, 352
- Krafft-Ebing, Dr., Arbeiten aus dem Gesamtgebiet der Psychiatrie und Neuro-pathologie, 841

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"Nos vero intellectum longius a rebus non abstrahimus quam ut rerum imagines et
radii (ut in sensu fit) coire possint."

FRANCIS BACON, *Proleg. Instaurat. Mag.*

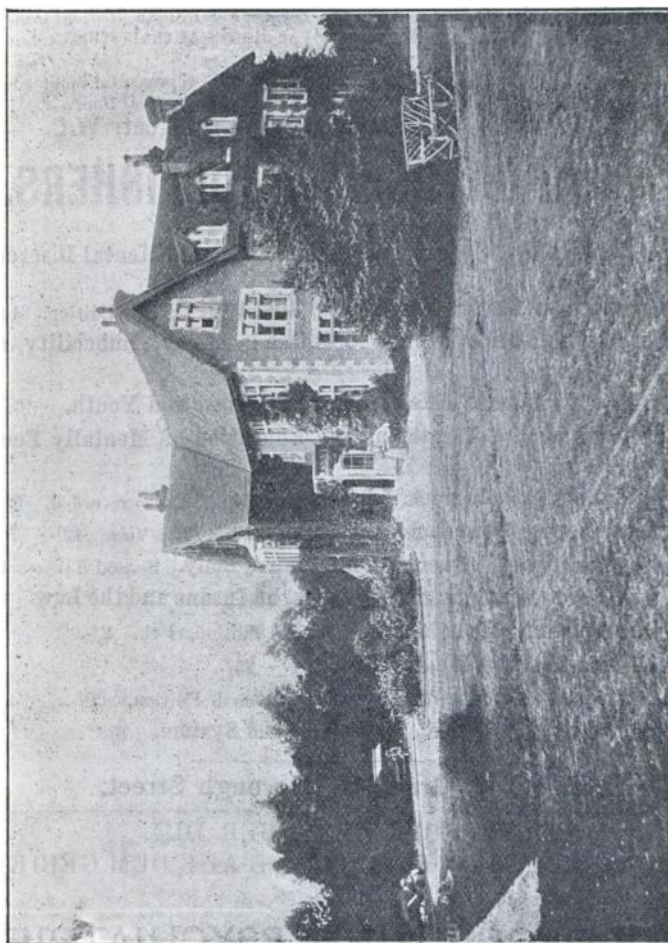
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" IN adopting our title of the *Journal of Mental Science*, published by authority of the *Medico-Psychological Association*, we profess that we cultivate in our pages mental science of a particular kind, namely, such mental science as appertains to medical men who are engaged in the treatment of the insane. But it has been objected that the term mental science is inapplicable, and that the terms mental physiology, or mental pathology, or psychology, or psychiatry (a term much affected by our German brethren), would have been more correct and appropriate; and that, moreover, we do not deal in mental science, which is properly the sphere of the aspiring metaphysical intellect. If mental science is strictly synonymous with metaphysics, these objections are certainly valid; for although we do not eschew metaphysical discussion, the aim of this Journal is certainly bent upon more attainable objects than the pursuit of those recondite inquiries which have occupied the most ambitious intellects from the time of Plato to the present, with so much labour and so little result. But while we admit that metaphysics may be called one department of mental science, we maintain that mental physiology and mental pathology are also mental science under a different aspect. While metaphysics may be called speculative mental science, mental physiology and pathology, with their vast range of inquiry into insanity, education, crime, and all things which tend to preserve mental health, or to produce mental disease, are not less questions of mental science in its practical, that is in its sociological point of view. If it were not unjust to high mathematics to compare it in any way with abstruse metaphysics, it would illustrate our meaning to say that our practical mental science would fairly bear the same relation to the mental science of the metaphysicians as applied mathematics bears to the pure science. In both instances the aim of the pure science is the attainment of abstract truth; its utility, however, frequently going no further than to serve as a gymnasium for the intellect. In both instances the mixed science aims at, and, to a certain extent, attains immediate practical results of the greatest utility to the welfare of mankind; we therefore maintain that our Journal is not inaptly called the *Journal of Mental Science*, although the science may only attempt to deal with sociological and medical inquiries, relating either to the preservation of the health of the mind or to the amelioration or cure of its diseases; and although not soaring to the height of abstruse metaphysics, we only aim at such metaphysical knowledge as may be available to our purposes, as the mechanic uses the formularies of mathematics. This is our view of the kind of mental science which physicians engaged in the grave responsibility of caring for the mental health of their fellow-men may, in all modesty, pretend to cultivate; and while we cannot doubt that all additions to our certain knowledge in the speculative department of the science will be great gain, the necessities of duty and of danger must ever compel us to pursue that knowledge which is to be obtained in the practical departments of science with the earnestness of real workmen. The captain of a ship would be none the worse for being well acquainted with the higher branches of astronomical science, but it is the practical part of that science as it is applicable to navigation which he is compelled to study."—*Sir J. C. Bucknill, M.D., F.R.S.*

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CONTENTS FOR OCTOBER, 1898.

PART I.—ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

- A. R. Urquhart, M.D.—Presidential Address 673
J. R. Lord, M.B.—A New Nissl Method 693
Francis O. Simpson, L.R.C.P.—The Specific Gravity of the Insane Brain 700
W. R. Watson, L.R.C.S.—Sewage Disposal at Hawkhead Asylum 707
George R. Wilson, M.D.—The Mismanagement of Drunkards 711
W. Ford Robertson, M.D., and D. Orr, M.B.—The Normal Histology and Pathology of the Cortical Nerve-cells 729
John Wainman Findlay, M.D.—Observations on the Normal and Pathological Histology of the Choroid Plexuses of the Lateral Ventricles of the Brain 744
Ira Van Giesen, M.D.—The Correlation of Sciences in Psychiatric and Neurological Research 754
- Clinical Notes and Cases.—A Case of Chorea Gravis; by J. W. GEDDES, M.B., and T. ALDOUS CLINCH, M.D.—Clinical Cases. 1. Post-epileptic Hysteria. 2. Congenital Aberrations of the Epiblast in an Insane Man; by F. GRAHAM CROOKSHANK, M.D. 811—820
- Occasional Notes of the Quarter.—The Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association.—The British Medical Association.—The Correlation of Sciences in the Investigation of Nervous and Mental Diseases.—Criminal Evidence.—Prison Reform.—Inebriates Act.—The Lunacy Bill.—The Law of Settlement (*Plymouth v. Axminster Guardians*).—Lunacy Certificates.—Hypnotism and Will-making.—Lead Poisoning.—Hypnotism.—Priest and Physician.—Asylum *v.* Hospital 821—838

PART II.—REVIEWS.

- Die Darstellung Krankhafter Geistzustände in Shakespeare's Dramen; von Dr. HANS LAEHR.—Arbeiten aus dem Gesamtgebiet der Psychiatrie und Neuropathologie; von R. v. KRAFFT-EBING.—Die Heil- und Pflegeanstalten für Psychischkranke des deutschen Sprachgebietes; von Dr. HEINR. LAEHR.—Casuistische Beiträge zur forensischen Psychiatrie; von Dr. E. SIEMERLING.—Les États neurasthéniques; by GILLES DE LA TOURETTE.—Névroses; par ARVÈDE BARINE.—Ueber die Sexuellen Ursachen der Neurasthenie und Angstneurose; von Dr. FELIX GATTEL.—The Subconscious Self and its Relation to Education and Health; by LOUIS WALDSTEIN, M.D.—L'Année Sociologique; Publiée sous la Direction d'Émile Durkheim.—Memory and its Cultivation; by F. W. EDRIDGE GREEN, M.D.—Crime and Criminals; by J. S. CHRISTISON, M.D. 838—856

PART III.—PSYCHOLOGICAL RETROSPECT.

- Some Asylum Reports, 1897-8: English County and Borough Asylums.—German Retrospect; by WILLIAM W. IRELAND, M.D. 856—874

PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

- Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland.—Recent Medico-legal Cases reported by Dr. Mercier.—Asylum News.—Quebec Medico-Psychological Society.—Correspondence.—Obituary.—Notices by the Registrar.—Notices of Meetings.—Appointments.—Omissions 875—896