

the semi-circular canals in the higher animals it could be stopped by this hypnotism.

On the last day of the Congress, Saturday, August 10, Professor ESPINAS, of Bordeaux, was asked to act as Chairman, and he called on M. Babinski to explain the views of the school of the Salpêtrière.

M. BABINSKI said he was glad to do so, though they had been lately published in the *Arch. de Neurologie*, 1889, Nos. 49 and 50. They did not admit that hypnotism was confined to hysterics, but only best studied in them. He admitted that he had seen little of hypnotism in non-hysterical patients; but he could not admit that all the phenomena were due to suggestion, as for instance anæsthesia often was found when it was not suggested. He had heard it said that M. Charcot's three stages of lethargy, catalepsy, and somnambulism were only to be found at the Salpêtrière, but he could call Tamburini, Seppili, Viziosi, and others as witnesses to the contrary.

Most of the speakers who followed him considered it an incomplete study of hypnotism to observe it only or chiefly in the hysterical cases, when the inferences were specially difficult.

Mr. F. W. H. MYERS described some experiments in thought-transference, which he had carried out with hypnotized subjects, when the experimenters, who alone knew the piece of knowledge sought (such as a number drawn by accident from a bag, or card from a pack) could be carefully isolated from all communication by the senses at a distance from the subject. A large amount of varied experiment had shown with a few subjects such an immense superiority of correct guessing to what could be calculated by rules of chance, that he thought there was certainly some other agency at work than hyperæsthesia, or fraud, or chance.

Professor CH. RICHERT had been for some time familiar with these experiments, and had conducted many like them himself, and considered them of great importance, as thought-transference of this kind, if true, was a very great truth.

Professor SIDGWICK and Professor DELBOEUF both agreed in the importance of carrying out such experiments carefully on a large scale.

After some discussion as to the best place of meeting of the next Congress of Experimental Psychology in 1892, it was agreed that it should be held in London, in August, 1892, and an *ad interim* Committee was appointed, who were to meet about Christmas, 1891, to complete the arrangements. The Committee were chosen only from those present in Paris, in order to secure immediate consent, and consist of MM. Beannis, Benedikt, Betrand, Bernheim, Danilewsky, Delboeuf, Espinas, Forel, Ferrari, Galton, Gley, Grote, Gruber, Herzen, W. James, Lombroso, Marillier, Münsterberg, F. Myers, Nieglich, Ochorowicz, Ribot, Ch. Richet, von Schrenck Notzing, Sidgwick, and Sperling.

A. T. M.

#### BEER IN ASYLUMS.

Dr. Hearder, in the Twenty-third Report of the Joint Counties' Asylum, Carmarthen, says:—"It is now eight years since you ordered that the use of beer as an article of diet should be discontinued in your asylum. There was at that time only one county asylum in which the dietary did not include beer. At the present time malt liquor is included in the dietary of only a decided minority of asylums, and this number is growing smaller year by year. In this asylum the change has been decidedly and absolutely beneficial; it was effected with the entire concurrence of the whole staff of attendants, and it was not accompanied by any friction or discontent amongst the patients. A few years previously, in 1876-7, the use of alcoholic stimulants, in the treatment of disease and as an

addition to the diet of the feeble and aged, was gradually and almost completely discontinued. In this change also, there can be no doubt, we made a decided advance in rational treatment. We effected no saving in money, because more than an equal expense was incurred in providing substitutes for these alcoholic extras in the form of milk and eggs, our expenditure for eggs alone being considerably over £100 per annum. Our average annual expenditure for wine and spirits, for the 11 years ending 1876, was £90, while our average number of patients was 255. For the last 11 years, with an average population of 460, our wine and spirit bill has averaged only £12 per annum. Comparing then our mortality for these two periods, we find that during the first period of 11 years our average annual mortality was 9·7 per cent.; and during the last 11 years it has been less than 8·1 per cent. I would not be understood to hold that this diminished mortality resulted entirely from our abstinence from alcohol, there were doubtless many other influences at work, but we may fairly claim that our patients have not suffered thereby. The disuse of alcoholic stimulants is being gradually carried out in asylums in general. In 1876 the average cost per head for 'wine, spirits, and porter' was 6s. 6d.; in 1886 we find it had been reduced year by year to a half of this amount."

#### FEMALE PHYSICIANS AND THE STATE HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE IN THE UNITED STATES.

"It is well that reforms come slowly; in this way variations from recognized orthodox methods sometimes demonstrate that even radical changes in established customs may be wisely considered, perhaps even adopted.

The Legislature, "for the better regulation and treatment of female insane in the asylums and hospitals of the commonwealth," by Act of June 4, 1879, provided, "that in all hospitals and asylums now built, or hereafter to be built, and under the control of the State, and in which male and female patients are received for treatment, the trustees of said asylums or hospitals may appoint a skilful female physician, who shall reside in such asylum or hospital, and who shall have the medical control of said female inmates, who shall report to the superintendent and also to the trustees." This law went into effect as to asylums and hospitals then built in one year after the passage of the Act.

The presence in the medical profession of well-educated, judicious, and experienced female practitioners has encouraged the managers of two of our State hospitals to entrust the treatment of their female insane to women.

The trustees of the State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg, "in the full conviction, and after mature consideration, that the comfort, welfare, and restoration to health of the female patients in this hospital would be promoted by the exercise of the power conferred upon them by this Act, on July 8, 1880, elected Margaret A. Cleaves, M.D., of Davenport, Iowa, to have the medical control of the patients."

The term for which Dr. Cleaves was elected having expired on August 31, 1883, when she declined to be a candidate for re-election, her position was filled by the appointment of her assistant, Dr. Jane K. Garver, who took charge September 1, and continues in office.

The trustees of the State Hospital for the Insane at Norristown, on the opening of that institution, February 18, 1880, adopted "the system of a division of the medical supervision by placing over the men a male resident physician, and over the women a female resident physician, making each responsible for, and requiring them to devote their whole time and single attention to, the care of their respective patients."

It is most satisfactory to note the uniform generous favour, the uninterrupted, cordial support which has been given to these two women physicians at the Harrisburg and Norristown hospitals, who have so fully shown their ability in