# INDEX TO VOL. XLVIII.

#### PART I.-GENERAL INDEX.

Alcohol and tobacco, influence on work, 351

duration of psychic action of, 164 influence on handwriting, 163 ,, ,, ", innuence on mandwriting, 163 ", question as a cultural and race problem, 350 ", total abstinence question, 190 Alcoholics, asylum treatment of, 185 Alcoholism as a cause of general paralysis, 168 Ambidgetoric: 248 Ambidexterity, 348 American psychiatry, 124 Anthropology, 142, 344, 560 Aphasia, mental condition in, 575 Apprehensiveness, stupor, and katatonia, 808 Argyll-Robertson pupil, clinical value and relation to syphilis, 570 Army, insanity in, 125 Art and artists, 120 Asylum accommodation in Lancashire, 384 accommodation in Lancashire at Lujan, Buenos Ayres, 361 Bangour, 539 dysentery, 509 for London (ninth), 764 reports, 192, 366, 789 workers' association, 540 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Asylums, Continental and British, notes of a visit to, 761 night nursing and supervision in, 289 ,, ,, political management of, 125 Audition, l', 549 Bangour asylum, 539 Bed treatment of insanity, 186 Belgium psychiatry, 127 Boarding out system, 136 Brain, abnormal, 323 Brain, circulation of blood in, 555 ,, lipoma of, 64 ,, traumatic lesion of, with epilepsy, 66 ,, of a criminal, 585, 773 British Medical Association, section of psych British Medical Association, section of psychology, 806 Bromides, action of, during hypochlorisation, 359, 361 Bureau of informatiou, 202, 207 Care and treatment of persons of the poorer classes in the early stages of unsound-ness of mind, 806 Cathcart case, 536 Catatonia, 356

XLVIII.

820

Children, mentally deficient, 558 Chloral-hydrate poisoning, 784 Choreas, psycho-mechanical treatment of, 785 Chromatolysis, 151 Classification of the psychopathics, 778 Circular insanity, value of dreams in, 578 Cocainomaniac father and idiot children, 132 Consanguine marriages and consequences, 569 Consanguine marriages and consequences, 569 Consanguinity in the ætiology of epilepsy, 569 Copenhagen hospital, psychiatric wards, 525 Corpus callosum, deficiency of, 146 Correspondence, 207, 386, 598, 813 Crime in general paralysis, 28 Criminal asylums and sections for insane in prisons, 584 , lunatics, female, 13 , statistics, 127 statistics, 127 " Criminals, abnormalities in brains of, 585 Croonian lectures on the chemical side of nervous activity, 148 degeneration of the neuron, 150 Cross-education, 156 Cutaneous sensibility, 135 Czolgosz, the assassin of President McKinley, 125, 336 Danger of discharge of insane patients by the judicial authority, 335 Defectives, training of, 786 Delusions in some cases of melancholia, evolution of, 495 Dementia præcox, 779 Denmark, psychiatry in, 129 Diabetic insanity, 735 Dicting of pauper lunatics in Scotland, report on, 334 Dispensary treatment of mental diseases, 187 Dreams and their meaning, 122 case of prolonged, 180 ,, importance of, as symptoms of disease, 180 ,, projection of, into waking state, 161 ,, semeiology of, 564 ,, symptomatic value of, 578 ,, systematised delusional insanity from dream to dream, 179 Drug therapeutics, 760 Dysentery, asylum, 509 Education and psychiatry, 786 Electric bath, 789 Emotions, 550 " psycho-physiology of, 159 Encyclopædia medica, 545 Enrico Ballor, called " the hammerer," 788 Epidemic irrationality, 542 Epilepsy ætiology, pathogenesis, and treatment, 343 and crime, 182 ,, and cysticerci of brain, 184 ,, dietetic treatment of, 784 ,, following traumatic lesion of brain, 66, 139 ,, and hysteria, 578 ,, hysteria, idiocy, etc., 569, 547 ,, observations on, 135 ,,

original research in, 76 ,,

"

- ,,
- ,,
- ,,
- pathogenesis and pathology of, 109 psycho-motor, syphilitic, 182 treatment of, public aid, and jurisprudence, 110 ,, practical, 111 with glioma, following traumatic injury of brain, 751

E pileptics, treatment of, 385 new toxic and therapeutic properties of the blood-serum of, 782 Ereuthophobia, case of, 159

Faradisation of head for insomnia, 188 Female criminal lunatics, 13 Finger-prints of normal and insane patients, 560 Flagellatio puerorum as an expression of masked sadism, 189 France, psychiatry in, 131

General paralysis, ætiology and symptoms of, 573 ,, ,, crime in, 28 early symptoms of, 574 genital sense in, 174 ,, ,, ,, ,, normal posterior rcot ganglia and their degenerative phases, 369 ,, ,, polyclonus in, 173 ,, ,, psycho-motor hallucinations in, 174 ,, ,, sense of smell in, 572 ,, ,, simulating cerebral syphilis, 574 ,, ,, spontaneous fracture in, 355 ,, ,, stigmata of degeneration in viscera, 354 ,, ,, topography of degeneration in cortex, 583 ... Germany, psychiatry in, 133 Glioma and epilepsy, 751 Gynæcological observation at the asylum of Ville-Evraid, 186 Hæmatoma of the cerebral dura mater, 531 Hallucinations, 45 and allied mental phenomena, 2264 ,, of hearing, unilateral, 54 Hallux, shortness of, in epileptics, criminals, and idiots, 142 Head, measurements of, 553 Hearing, 549 hallucinations of, 54 Heart and circulation in feeble-minded, 175 Heating and ventilation as regards tuberculosis, 405 Hemicephale, nervous system of, 145 Heredity of endogenous psychoses, 567 and insanity, 611 Holland, psychiatry in, 134 Homicide, mental conditions resulting in, 313 Hospital ideals in the care of the insane, 261, 598 treatment of incipient and transient mental disease, 697 Hunger, action on psychic processes, 165 Hydrotherapy, 782, 783 Hysteria and its treatment, 114 and katatony, diagnosis, 582 definition of, 576 " Hysterical psychoses and myoclonus, 577 Ideas, fixed, 175 Idiocy and athetosis, 172 and cerebral paralysis, 173 ,, clinical and penatomopathological studies, 780 ,, with diplegia, 575 ,, pathological studies in, 112 Idiot and imbecile, psychology of, 111 Idiots and imbeciles, care of, 738 Imbecile children, 554 Imbeciles, prostitution and vagrancy in, 586 Incipient mental disorder, treatment of, 215

Index to Brain, 336

Infanticide, 366 Influenza, 337 Insane before the courts, 340 care of, in hospitals, 261 ,, criminals, disposal of, 341 ,, modern advances in treatment, 187 ,, treatment of, without isolation, 183 Insanity, delusional, 179 ,, surgical treatment of, 450 legislation for limitation of, 192 1, ,, of adolescence, 177, 178 ,, text-book of, by Dr. Mercier, 543 ,, with rigidity of muscles, 183 Italy, psychiatry in, 137 Jealousy, delusions resulting from, 133 Jerusalem, insanity in, 764, 815 Judicial condemnations of unrecognised lunatics, 584 Katatony and hysteria, diagnosis, 582 Kernig's sign as a symptom of focal brain disease, 776 Kleptomania and death from cerebral uræmia, 181 Laboratory of the Scottish asylums, 597 Lipoma of the brain, 64 Localisation of mental faculties in left prefrontal lobe, 561 Lunacy, the burden of, 198 increase of certified, 763 law, flaw in, 312, 335 ,, ,, ,, reform of, 190 legislation, 541 ,, ,, statistics, 71 Malaria, psychical disorders in, 579 Mania, delirious, acute, 580 Maniac, autobiography of a, 171 Marriages, consanguine, and their consequences, 569 Materialistic psychiatry, 162 Medico-legal cases, 205, 380, 536, 591, 809 Medico-psychological research, organisation, 74 Association meetings, 196, 198, 201, 202, 369, 371, 372, 586, 587, 589, 590, 591, 757, 795, 805 ,, ,, presidential address, 611 ,, ,, statistics, 709 Melancholia and the toxemia theory, 352 evolution of delusions in, 495 Memory, 552 development in children, 153 ,, negation of, 580 ,, in the normal, neurasthenic, and insane, 153 Mental and motor ability, correlation between, 156 " physical tests, correlation of, 106 health and the war, 73 ,, state of the subjects of tics, 581 ., symptoms, relation to bodily disease and treatment, 748 ,, work and dynamometrical effort, 553 Merck's annual report, 766 Messiah, another, 765 Military crime, 786 Mind !, 75

822

Morals, 551

Morphia, criminal assault to secure, 132 hypodermic administration of, 813 Morphinomania, 478 Nails, transverse ridging of, in the normal, criminal, and insane, 344 National mental health and the war, 73 Nerve-cells, alteration of, in acute confusional psychoses, 184 Nerves, peripheral, restoration of, 147 Nervous organs in health and disease, anatomy of, 118 ,, system, stimulus in repair and decay of, 667 Neurasthenia, symptoms of, 116 auto-suggestive, 181 " treatment of, 548 ,, treatment of, 548 Neuroglia cell and its processes, 732 Neuron, degeneration of, 150 Neuroses, functional, relation to insanity, 807 Neurosis of the end of the century, 166 Norway, psychiatry in, 141 Obituary notices-Bodington, Dr. G. F., 604; Clark, Dr. Campbell, 209, 371;
Fox, Dr. Bonville, 590, 602; Hills, Dr. W. C., 388; Macmillan, Dr. N. H., 816; Mickley, Dr. G., 815; Shaw, Dr. J. S., 126; Strahan, Dr. S. A. K., 389; Strange, Dr. A., 603; Sutherland, Dr. H., 208; Wade, Dr. L., 193, 201; Worcester, Dr., 126 Obsessions of scruples, 154 Onanism and treatment by hypnotic suggestion, 785 Open-door and bed treatment in Argentine Republic, 361 Optic thalami, degeneration of, 58 Pachymeningitis interna hæmorrhagica, 531 Pain, 347 Paralysis, general, see General paralysis , pseudo-bulbar, 151 Paralytics, degeneration in cortex of, 383 Parricide and mental degeneration, 132 Pathological study of insanity, 383, 641 Pathology, human and comparative, 107 Pellagrous insanity, 1 Pelvis in criminals, 143 Penal science, 339 Pensions, 197, 373 Pericardium, calcification of, 529 Photographing of insane patients, 203 Pigott, Mr., another Messiah, 765 Pituitary gland, physiology and pathology of, 119 Plans of villa at Perth Royal Asylum, 588 Polydactylism, 345 Prefrontal lobes and localisation of mental functions, 9 Pregnancy, insanity of, 17 ,, and nervous diseases, 568 Presidential address by Dr. Wiglesworth, July, 1902, 611 Primitive offenders and offences, 346 Private insane patients, 331 Progressive paralysis, changes in the cerebellar neuroglia, 582 genesis and nosographic position of, 775 in the German Tirol, 168 ,, ,, Psychiatric clinique in Edinburgh, proposed, 329, 381 Psychological investigations in psychiatry and criminal anthropology, 566 Psychology, evolution of, 162 normal and morbid, 76, 95 Puberty, 122, 137 Pupillary symptoms in the insane, 501

Recurrent insanity, ætiology and morbid anatomy, 167 Report of Tuberculosis Committee, 393 ,, on heating and ventilation, 405 Resartor, reply to, 600 Responsibility, diminished, 585 Roll of honour for asylum workers, 75 Rules, revision of, 811 Saint-Simon, mental condition of, 565 Santonin, action of, on colour-sense, 563 Science and mediæval thought, 103 Section and inclusival tabling its 100 Sex, influence on anthropological characters, 143 Sexual impulse in women, 773 Sleep in relation to narcotics in the trentment of mental disease, 460 Smell, sense of, in general paralysis, 572 Social class and creed, influence on anthropological characters, 345 Statistical tables, revision of, 812 Stimulation and fatigue, 349 Sulphonal poisoning, 755 Superannuation, 373 Surgical treatment of delusional insanity, 450 insanity, 687 Swindler, an international, 191 Syphilis and Argyll-Robertson pupil, 570 " and the nervous system, 337 as a cause of insanity, 808 Syphilitic insanity, prevention of, 758 Tabes dorsalis in the pre-ataxic stage, 571 ,, ,, new theories concerning the sciology of, 308 Tactile impressions, perception of, 774 Taste sensations in the larynx, 157 Thermic applications in nervous diseases, 137 Thompson, Dr., letter on hospital ideals, 598 Tics, mental state of subjects of, 581 Toxmina in the ætiology of mental disease, 434 Toxmine theory and melancholia, 352 Traumatic lesion of prefrontal lobe, epilepsy, 66 , neurosis, disturbed sensation, 571 Treatment without isolation cells by hydropathic measures, 782 of mental disorders by the continuous bath, 783 Tubercular patients in asylums, isolation, 191 Tuberculosis Committee, report, 393 Tumour of the frontal lobes of cerebrum, 327 Twins, insanity in, 135 Uræmia and acute delirious mania, 358 Ventricles, lateral, of brain, topography, 149 Vertigo, 155 Vision of natives of Torres Straits, 557 Visual area, localisation of, 148

Voluntary control, development of, 158
, mydriasis and epilepsy in a man of genius, 775
War and the national mental health, 73
Warneford Asylum, 70
Woman, bodily and mental individuality, 169
, sequestrated, 131
Women, sterilisation of, plea for, 189

Yellowlees, Dr., resignation of, 208

#### PART II.-ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

# Alexander, H. de M., M.D., a case of sulphonal poisoning, 755

Baker, J., M.D., female criminal lunatics, 13

Bar, Dr., unilateral hallucinations of hearing, 55 Blackford, J. B., M.D., degeneration of the optic thalami, 58

Bond, C. H., D.Sc., M.D., medico-psychological statistics : the desirability of definition and correlation with a view to collective study, 709

Brunton, Sir Lauder, hallucinations and allied mental phenomena, 226

Clouston, T. S., M.D., toxæmia in the ætiology of mental disease, 434 ,, the possibility of providing suitable means of treatment for incipient and transient mental disorders in our great general hospitals, 697

Cowen, T. P., M.D., tumour of the frontal lobes of the cerebrum in which sleep was a marked symptom, 327

pupillary symptoms in the insane and their import, 501

Dawson, W. R., M.D., note on the pathogenesis of diabetic insanity, 735

Elkins, F. A., M.D., night nursing and supervision in asylums, 289

Greenlees, T. D., M.D., a statistical contribution to the pathology of insanity, 645

Harrisson, D., F.R.C.S., surgical treatment of insanity, 687

Jones, R., M.D., cases of morphinomania, 478

Leeper, Dr., observations on the neuroglia cell and its processes, 732

Longworth, S. G., L.R.C.P., hæmatoma of the cerebral dura mater associated with hæmorrhage from the colon, 531

MacDonald, P. W., M.D., note on the prefrontal lobes and the localisation of mental functions, 9

Macmillan, N. H., M.D., prophylaxis and treatment of asylum dysentery, 509 Mott, F. W., F.R.S., M.D., importance of stimulus in repair and decay of the nervous system, 667

Norman, Dr. Conolly, notes on hallucinations, 45

Pontoppidon, Prof. Knud, psychiatric wards in the Copenhagen Hospital, 525

Raw, N., M.D., the relation of mental symptoms to bodily disease and their treatment, 748

Rayner, H., M.D., sleep in relation to narcotics in the treatment of mental disease, **460** 

Revington, G. T., M.D., mental conditions resulting in homicide, 313

Revington, G. 1., M.D., mental conductors resulting in mental, and the second s

G., M.D., hospital ideals in the care of the insane, 261 W. Ford, M.D., epilepsy following traumatic lesion of brain, 66

Rows, R. G., M.D., the bearing of recent research in the posterior root ganglia upon the new theories concerning the ætiology of tabes dorsalis, 308

Shaw, T. Clay, M.D., surgical treatment of delusional insanity based upon its physiological study, 450 Sibbald, Sir J., M.D., the treatment of incipient mental disorder and its clinical

teaching in the wards of general hospitals, 215

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,,

Simpson, F. O., L.R.C.P, calcification of the pericardium, 529 Sproat, J. H., M.B., the care of idiots and imbeciles, 738 Steiger, Adéle de, M.B., two cases of lipoma of the brain, 64 Sullivan, W. C., M.D., crime in general paralysis, 28 Sutcliffe, J., L.R.C.P., an abnormal brain of excessive weight, 323

Urquhart, A. R., M.D., a case of epilepsy following traumatic lesion of prefrontal lobe, 66

", ", with glioma following on traumatic injury of brain, 751

Warnock, J., M.D., some cases of pellagrous insanity, 1 Weatherley, L., M.D., evolution of delusions in some cases of melancholia, 495 White, E. W., M.B., a flaw in the English lunacy law, 312 Wiglesworth, J., presidential address—heredity and insanity, 611

### PART III.-REVIEWS.

Allbutt, T. Clifford, M.A., M.D., Science and medizeval thought: the Harveian oration for 1900, 103

Berger, Dr. Hans, Zur Lehre von der Blutzirkulation in der Schädelhöhle des Menschen namentlich den Einfluss von Medikamenten, 555

Biervliet, Prof. J. J. van, La mémoire, 552

Binet, Dr. A., L'année psychologique, 552

Bonfigli, Prof. C., Inaugural address on the opening of the institution for mentally deficient children at Rome, 558

Bonnier, Dr. P., L'audition, 549

Bourneville, D., Recherches cliniques et thérapeutiques sur l'épilepsie, l'hystérie, et l'idiotie, 547

Brooks, Mr. H. S., The elements of mind; being an examination into the nature of the first division of the elementary substance of life, 767

Caselli, Dr. A., anatomical and experimental studies upon the physiology and pathology of the pituitary gland, 119

Centralblatt für Anthropologie, Ethnologie, und Urgeschichte, 123 Clinique des maladies du septième nerveux, 772

Dupratt, Dr. G. L., La morale, 551

Elmira Reformatory, year-book of, for 1901, 342

Ferrari, Prof. G. C., On the league for protection of deficient children, 558 Fleury, Dr. I. de, Les grands symptômes neurasthéniques (pathogénie et traitement), 116

Gianelli, A. D., On the education of deficient children, 558 Gilles de la Tourette, Prof., Le traitement pratique de l'épilepsie, 111

Hutchinson, Dr. H. G., Dreams and their meaning, 122 ,, Dr. W., Studics in human and comparative pathology, 107

Jahresbericht der Neurologie und Psychiatrie, 554

Kovalesky, Dr. P., Épilepsie: traitement, assistance, et médecine légale, 110

Leonardo, Prof. B., Trattato di Psichiatria, 558

Marro, Dr. A., La puberté, 122 Mercier, Dr. C. A., A text-book of insanity, 543 ,, , Psychology, normal and morbid, 95 Merck's annual report, 766 Möbius, Dr. D. J., On art and artists, 120

Näcke, Dr. P., The disposal of insane criminals, 341 "," Ueber die sogenaunte "moral insanity," 768 Nonne, Dr. M., Syphilis und Nervensystem, 337

- Obersteiner, Dr. H., Introduction to the study of the anatomy of the central nervous organs in health and disease, 118
- Oppenheim, Dr. H., Lehrbuch der Nervenkrankheiten für Aerzte und Studirende, 771

Pellizzi, Dr. G. B., Clinical and pathological studies upon idiocy, 112
Pini, Dr. P., L' epilessia: eziologia, patogenesi, e cura, 343
Pontoppidon, Dr. K., Medico-legal reports on insanity: a collection of cases for the use of physicians and jurists, 343
Proust and Ballett, Drs., The treatment of neurasthenia, translated by Dr. P. Campbell Smith, 548

Relazione finanziaria de l' Istituto Medico-Pedagogico, 558

- Reports of the Cambridge anthropological expedition to Torres Straits, 556
  - Commissioners in Lunacy, England, 76 ,,
    - Ireland, 89 ,, ,,

", Scotland, 84 Resoconto finanziario della Lega Nazionale, 1899–1901, 558

Sergi, Prof. G., Les émotions, 550

,,

- ", ", The Aryans in Europe and Asia, 770 Sollier, Dr. P., L'hystéric et son traitement, 114 ", ", Psychologie de l'idiot et de l'imbécile, 111

Vaschide, N., et Vurpas, Cl., Psychologie du délire dans les troubles psychopathiques, 769

Watson, Dr. C., Encyclopædia medica, 545 Weber, Dr. L. W., Contributions to the pathogenesis and pathological anatomy of epilepsy, 109

Whiteway, A. R., M.A., Object lessons in penal science, 339

Wissler, C., M.A., The correlation of mental and physical tests, 106

# AUTHORS REFERRED TO IN EPITOME.

Agostini, 786	<b>Cauria, 184</b> Ceni, 782	Garnier, 586 Grandis, 774
Alter, 782		
Angiolella, 580	Cestan et Dupay-Du-	Grassel, 155
Audiffrent, 366	temps, 570	Guidi, 181
Audinino, 775	Channing, 187	Guizzatti, 151
	Coscia, 143	
Babinski, 576	Crothers, 359	Halliburton, 148
Bagley, 156	Cullerre, 358	Havelock, 187
Bair, 158		Henneberg, 171
Bechterew, 571	Davis, 156	0.
Benedikt, 182, 190	Del Greco, 169	Janet, Pierre, 154
Bergson, 563	Dumas, 565	Juliusburger, Otto, 162
Berrillon, 785	Dunton, 779	0, ,
Bethe, 147		Kaiser, 582
Bianchi, 191, 166, 775	Eisath, G., 168	Kiesow, F., and Hahn,
Biervliet, 348	Ellis, Havelock, 773	R., 157
Bolton, 148		Klippel, 179, 180
Bourneville, 178, 575, 569	Féré, 349, 351	Krafft-Ebing, 189
Brissaud, 574	Forel, 350	8,
Buvat, 580	Förster, 571	Ladame, 151
, .		Lalunne, 355
Cardamatis, 579	Gabred, 361	Lambranzi, 178
XLVIII.	-	58
AL V 111.		20

828

# INDEX.

Laufer, 359	Paris, 186	Schaffer, 583
Lobsien, Marx, 153	Parnisetti, 585	Schule, 183
Lombroso, 142, 182, 775,	Peipers, 569	Seppile, 168
778	Pellizzi, 780	Shæfer, 784
Lückerath, 784	Penta, 346, 584, 585	Sloan, 188
Lui, 184	Pfitzner, 143, 345	-
	Phelps, 561	Taylor, 175
Marie et Buvat, 174, 191	Pickett, 177	Tomasini, 172
Marondon, 174	Picqué, 186	Toulouse, 162, 361, 572
Mayer, 163	Pilez, 167	Treves, 344
Meige et Feindel, 581	Portigliotti, 345	Tschisch, 347
Meunier, 181	Probst, 146	
Mueli, 185		Vaschide, et P., 159, 161
Mondia, 577	Raecke, 582	180, 564, 578
Mongeri, 568	Ranschburg, 153	Vigouraux, 575
Moravesik, 574	Rasche, 573	Vorster, 567
Mott, 150	Raymond, 578	
Murault, 145	Rudin, 164	Wachsmuth, 173
		Waldeyer, 773
Näcke, 354	Sailer, 776	Weygandt, 165
Nagel, 56 <b>3</b>	Sanctis, 560, 778, 787	•••
-	Sano, 357	Zuccarelli, 189
Pactet, 584	Saporito, 786	

### ILLUSTRATIONS.

Photographs of cases of pellagrous insanity to illustrate Dr. Warnock's paper, 6, 8 , of brain to illustrate Dr. MacDonald's paper, 10 , of portion of brain to illustrate Drs. Urquhart and Ford Robertson's paper, 68 Woodcut diagrams to illustrate Sir Lauder Brunton's paper, 237, 238, 242 Lithographs of sectors, and actinal homographese, 246

Lithographs of scotoma and retinal hæmorrhage, 246

Lithographs of scotomu and retinal hæmorrhage, 246 Woodcut diagrams of arteries of brain, 251 Lithographs showing distribution of arteries and function of the cerebrum, 252 , of procession of spirits from Dante's Inferno and Paradiso, 253 , of visual appearance preceding sick headache, 254 Photographs of brain and brain sections to illustrate Mr. J. Sutcliffe and Prof. Delépine's paper, 326 Tables and charts showing statistics respecting tuberculosis, 426 Woodcuts of pulse tracings in morphinomania and alcoholic neuritis, 489, 490 Woodcut representing nervous system to illustrate Dr. Mott's paper, 671 Tables suggested for medico-psychological statistics, illustrating Dr. Bond's article 730

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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 term 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 mechanician 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.

# JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.

# Books and Pamphlets Received (continued).

Cuyer ; La Caractère, P. Malapert ; Psychiatrie für Ärzte und Studirende Bearbeitet, Ziehen ; The Force of Mind, Schofield.

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# JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE,

# CONTENTS FOR OCTOBER, 1902.

#### Original Articles .--

Pages

The Presidential Address, delivered at the Sixty-first Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, held at Liverpool on July 24th, 1902; by J. Wiglesworth, M.D., F.R.C.P.Lond.—A Statistical Contribution 1902; by J. Wiglesworth, M.D., F.R.C.P.Lond.—A Statistical Contribution to the Pathology of Insanity; by T. Duncan Greenlees, M.D.Edin., F.R.S.E. —Importance of Stimulus in Repair and Decay of the Nervous System; by F. W. Mott, F.R.S., M.D.—Some Remarks on the Surgical Treatment of Insanity; by Damer Harrisson, F.R.C.S.Edin.—The Possibility of pro-viding Suitable Means of Treatment for Incipient and Transient Mental Diseases in our Great General Hospitals: a Discussion opened by T. S. Clouston, M.D.—Medico-Psychological Statistics: the Desirability of Definition and Correlation with a View to Collective Study; by C. Hubert Bond, D.Sc., M.D.—Observations on the Neuroglia Cell and its Processes; by R. R. Leever, F.R.C.S.I.—Note on the Pathogenesis of Diabetic Insanity; by U. B. Dawson, M.D.(Dublin), F.R.C.P.I.—The Care of Idiots and Imberlies; by J. H. Sproat, M.B.Lond.—The Rela-tion of Mental Symptoms to Bodily Disease, and their Treatment; by Nathan Raw, M.D., M.P.C.P.Lon1., F.R.S.Edin. 611-611-751

#### Clinical Notes and Cases .-

A Case of Epileps with Glioma following on Traumatic Injury of the Brain; by A. R. Urchart, M.D., and W. Ford Robertson, M.D.—A Case of Sulphonal Poisoning; by H. de M. Alexander, M.D.(Edin.) . 751-751-756

#### Occasional Notes .-

The Annual Meeting of the Mergo-Psychological Association.—The Prevention of Syphilitic Innuise Drug Therapeutics.—Notes of a Visit to Continental and Heitish Asylums. — Increase of Certified Lunacy .- New (Ninth) Asylum for London .- Insanity in Jerusalem .-Another Messiah 757-766

#### Reviews .--

WS.— Lehrbuch der Nervenkrankheiten für Aerzte und Studirende [Text-book of Nervous Diseases for Practitioners and Students]; by Prof. Dr. H. OPPENMEIM.—Clinique des Maladies du Système nerveux (Hospice de la Salpêtrière), année 1898-9.—The Elements of Mind; being an Exa-mination into the Nature of the First Division of the Elementary Sub-stances of Life; by H. JAMYN BROOKS.—Ueber die sogenannte "Moral Insanity" [Concerning So-called "Moral Insanity"]; by P. NäCKE.— Psychologie du Délire dans les Troubles psychopathiques; par N. VASCHIDE et CL. VURPAS (Encyclopédie des Aide-Mémoire).—Gli Arii in Europa e in Asia [The Aryans in Europe and Asia]; by G. SERGI.— Merck's Annual Report, 1902 766-773

Epitome of Current Literature.— 1. Anthropology.—2. Physiological Psychology.—3. Ætiology of In-sanity.—4. Clinical Neurology and Psychiatry.—5. Pathology of In-sanity.—6. Treatment of Insanity.—7. Sociology.—8. Asylum Reports. 1901 773-795

#### Notes and News .-

Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland.-British Medical Association.-Recent Medico-Legal Cases.-Revision of the Rules.—Committee for the Revision of the Statistical Tables of the Medico-Psychological Association.—The Hypodermic Adminis-tration of Morphia.—Correspondence.—Obituary.—Notices by the Registrar.—Notices of Meetings.—Appointments 795-795-817

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