

Dr. BOWER then read a paper on "The Injurious Effects of Coffee in Causing Dyspepsia Among the Patients in Asylums."

Dr. IRELAND said there was not much time for discussion, but he thought the subject was one they might very well consider. It was difficult to treat it in a scientific manner. It was a thing in which the common sense of the physician should be exercised to seize upon such articles of diet as are not injurious to health. He had attended to this subject himself, but had not arrived at the same conclusions as Dr. Bower. Dr. Bower seemed to have a kind of antipathy to coffee. In his case there was an antipathy to tea. Coffee, he imagined, raised the pulse a beat or two, but he never heard that, taken in small quantities, it caused dyspepsia. If taken in large quantities, it might, and probably would, do so. He certainly would be surprised if it were made out that coffee, in moderate use, had any pernicious effects. At the same time he was not prepared to deny it. As a physician, he had never observed any of these effects in any marked degree, except in the case of patients who took a great deal of coffee. He had, however, seen a great deal of mischief arise from the taking of tea. As medical men, he was sure they had all had to attend women who, living alone, or in company with other women, and of sedentary habits, subsisted almost entirely on tea and white bread. He had seen indigestion, as well as many nervous symptoms, arising from indulgence in tea.

Dr. BOWER said he spoke of the immediate effect of coffee as an article of diet when a person was slightly dyspeptic.

Dr. YELLOWLEES greatly preferred tea to coffee, agreeing very largely with the paper which had been read. The question, however, was pretty well illustrated by the old proverb, "what is one man's meat is another man's poison."

Dr. CLOUSTON held that coffee was one of the most charming and delicious beverages, which, he considered, had been hardly dealt with, if not grossly libelled, in the paper! He was constantly in the habit of ordering a cup of very strong coffee, before they got up, to his melancholic patients, and often with the greatest possible benefit. He thought that it was the universal experience in asylums that when coffee was given in the morning to patients, it was received with very great favour, and he thought also with very great benefit.

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#### MORISON LECTURES ON INSANITY.

Professor GAIRDNER is the Morison Lecturer on Insanity to the College of Physicians, Edinburgh, for this year, and has just completed a course of six lectures on the following subjects:—

"What is Insanity? Elementary ideas as to Sane and Insane—Difficulties of definition—The Physician's view of Insanity is based upon the analogies of Bodily Disease and Function—Practical consequences of this view."

"How far a purely Somatic Pathology of Insanity is in accordance with the results of observation, and with sound theory—Sketch of the Physiology, as bearing on the Pathology, of the Nervous System—Excito-Motor, Automatic, and Instinctive phenomena—Hereditary Instincts and Habits—Hereditary Genius—Hereditary Crime—Relation of these facts to the Philosophy of Mental Disease."

"The final *Crus*—Modern Materialism in relation to Insanity—The Insoluble Problem of Spirit and Matter—Free-will and Necessity—Conscience and Controlled Action governs the whole question, and limits the application of the Somatic Pathology—Illustrations."

"Illustrations in detail—Drink-Madness—Other Narcotic Poisons—Mania of

Fever, and of some other Constitutional States—Comatose and Paralytic Affections—Aphasia—Anæsthesia—Exaggerations of Habit into positive bodily disease—Corresponding instances from the field of Mental Pathology—General Paralysis of the Insane, and other admittedly Insane types—Hysteria.”

“The question of Capacity—Legal and Medical aspects of Insanity.”

“The question of Responsibility—Sources of the collision between Legal and Medical definitions—Practical suggestions—Conclusion.”

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UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—LECTURESHIP ON MENTAL DISEASES.

Dr. CLOUSTON has been appointed Lecturer on Mental Diseases in the University of Edinburgh. The establishment of such Lectureships was recommended by the Scottish Universities Commission, 1877. This is the first appointment of the sort made in Scotland.

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*Appointments.*

JONES, L. R., M.B., C.M., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer at the North Wales Counties Asylum, Denbigh, vice Miles, resigned.

MCCRACKEN, J., M.B., C.M., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Glamorganshire Lunatic Asylum, at Bridgend, vice Snell.

RUDKIN, G. M. A., L.K.Q.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., has been appointed Visiting Surgeon to Dunnington House Private Asylum, near York, vice North, resigned.

SNELL, G., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Ed., has been appointed an Assistant Medical Officer, British Guiana.

WALLACE, J., M.D., L.R.C.S.Ed., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the Parish of Greenock New Lunatic Asylum at Smithstone.

WOOLLETT, S. W., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.L., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Sussex and Brandenburg House Asylums, Hammersmith.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1879.

The thirty-fourth annual meeting will be held in the Royal College of Physicians, Pall Mall, London (by permission of the President and Fellows), under the Presidency of J. A. Lush, M.P., F.R.C.P.

Notice of the date will be sent to Members, when fixed.

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