

found to be reliable, though in a few anæmic cases nitrite of amyl and nitro-glycerine did some good in diminishing the frequency of the attacks. In the epileptic status the inhalation of chloroform saved the life of one patient. The inhalation was pushed to insensibility, and renewed when the twitching of muscles indicated a fresh seizure. The same method of treatment has frequently succeeded elsewhere, but much more frequently failed. Of late years chloral, administered per rectum, has been largely used, and with great success. But the truth is, we have not yet discovered the rational treatment of epilepsy, and cannot foretell what drug will prove best in any given case.

A few brief notes are added on three cases of severe injury (of the skull) evincing few or no symptoms during life; on brain weights, and on skull mapping.

“The autopsy records of this asylum for the last eight years show the brain weights in 420 cases. The average weight of the brain in 250 male lunatics was $47\frac{1}{2}$ ozs., about 2 ozs. less than the healthy average, according to Quain. The maximum male brain was 60 ozs., and occurred in a case of general paralysis. The minimum male brain was 30 ozs. in an epileptic idiot.

“The average weight in 170 female lunatics was $43\frac{3}{4}$ ozs., being only $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. less than the healthy average, according to Quain. The maximum was 53 ozs., and occurred in a case of melancholia. The minimum was 25 ozs. in an epileptic idiot.

“The total average brain weight for all ages and both sexes was 45 ozs.”

(*To be continued.*)

2. *French Retrospect.*

By M. MORET, Secretary to the Société Médico-Psychologique, Paris.

Charge of Public Outrage to Decency. Condemnation. Fits of spontaneous and provoked somnambulism. Irresponsibility. Appeal. Judgment annulled and discharge of the prisoner. Medico-legal report.

In its audience of January 26, 1881, the Court of Appeals of Correctional Police annulled the judgment of the lower bench, condemning Emile D— to three months' imprisonment as guilty of public outrage to decency. This man had been arrested the 18th October, 1880, at half-past eight in the evening, by agents of the *Service des Mœurs*, who were on watch near one of the public urinals, Rue Sainte-Cécile. These agents affirmed to have seen many things while noticing that D— had remained over half-an-hour within the urinal. They even pretended that D— had incited one of them with an immoral purpose, without being, however, able to state that other persons had been objects of such solicitation.

D—, roughly carried away by the agents, protested in vain his innocence. He was taken to the police-station, and thence to the dépôt. Three days after he was tried, condemned, and sent to the gaol of La Santé, where he arrived ill, and was placed in the infirmary.

It was particularly remarked that D— remained in a state of semi-hebetude from the time of his arrest to his arrival in the gaol of La Santé. He did not remember to have been tried. Two policemen of Paris had to hold him by the arms, and almost dragged him away from the bench in the Court of Correctional Police, it being not until he was in the prisoners' room that he came out of his stupor, and learnt that he had just been condemned to go to gaol for three months. He had informed nobody of what had happened to him, nor had he been helped by any person, although during all such events his master, as well as one of his workmen, and D—'s own cousin, had been looking for him everywhere. They knew that he was ailing very much the day of his departure; that he had just had copious hæmoptysis, on which account he had gone out to call on his physician; but where had he gone to? They inquired after him at the Morgue; they also went to the Assistance Publique, without, however, discovering any of his traces until he wrote, five days after, to his master.

Now, D— had been received in April, 1879, into one of the wards, under the care of Dr. Mesnet, at the St. Antoine Hospital, and passed there six months. He was not in the least aware of his state, what he complained of being chiefly a great loss of blood from a fungous tumour, situated on the external upper part above the left nipple. It was soon discovered that he was subject to nocturnal attacks of somnambulism; and Dr. Mesnet discovering in this patient a predominant nervous temperament, with feminine exaggerations, and the existence of several anæsthetic points, thought that it would be possible to substitute the spontaneous attacks by provoked ones of somnambulism—a supposition which was quite verified. It was under these circumstances that we had occasion to observe D— at the Saint Antoine Hospital, where several other physicians and students witnessed likewise facts which, though extraordinary, were not in this respect unforeseen, nor different from those which are, at the present time, often observed by the physicians who particularly treat nervous diseases.

As soon as we became cognisant of D—'s imprisonment, we deemed it our duty to help him. What we knew about his pathological antecedents imposed upon us the duty to interfere in his behalf. An appeal was therefore lodged in his case, and the President of the Court of Appeals of Correctional Police did us the honour of charging us with the examination ordered by the Court.

The following is the medico-legal report, which we presented to it on the 5th January, 1881:—

“The undersigned, Doctor in Medicine of the Faculty of Paris, Knight of the Legion d'Honneur, appointed the 24th November, 1880, by an order of the Court of Appeals, Chamber of Appeals of Correc-

tional Police, to ascertain the mental condition of Pierre Louis Emile D—, accused of public outrage to decency, after being duly sworn, and having taken cognisance of the minutes of evidence produced at the trial, as well as of every particular throwing light on the case, and having several times visited D—, makes on his honour and conscience the following report :—

“The pathological antecedents of D— are long since known to me. I have closely watched this man in the wards of Dr. Mesnet, at the Saint Antoine Hospital. There, undergoing an observation the more attentive in that it was vividly excited by scientific curiosity, D— has been in a fit condition to be studied by the physician-in-chief, his pupils, and a great many physicians. The nervous and intellectual disorders which he has displayed have been every single day noticed during several months, and these notes, put at my disposal, enable me to furnish the Court with positive elements to appreciate the responsibility of the accused.

“The public outrage to decency of which D— is accused may well be a mere episode during a series of complex disorders, reducing itself on last analysis to one of those automatic acts so very common in what it has been agreed to call ‘*state of second condition*’—a state which I have many times seen induced in D—, either spontaneously or artificially.

“D— is a young man, 28 years old, rather well-constituted, with a marked predominance of the nervous temperament ; intelligent, but of extreme emotional susceptibility ; and although he has every external appearance of manhood, he lacks virility entirely. His character is altogether feminine. Being timid, with a soft voice, eyes unusually languid, and of a suspicious demeanour, I am not at all surprised that he should have been suspected of addicting himself to unnatural crimes, since he bears himself like those who commit it, although he does not show the least mark of it.

“He never incurred the least suspicion of his morality during his sojourn at the Saint Antoine Hospital. A close vigilance in this respect did not even disclose any habits of masturbation. Nevertheless, according to D—’s own avowal, he practised them during his early youth ; afterwards he has indulged in sexual excess ; and this excess seems associated with the production of the nervous accidents which he exhibits.

“There is very little important to remark concerning D—’s family history. His mother and one of his sisters are nervous, hysterical females ; his father is a man of quick, angry temper ; but none of his antecedents exhibited any cerebral trouble or nervous disease of a convulsive kind. His first infancy passed without any serious malady ; the first pathological fact worthy of notice dates from the month of August, 1877.

“D—, while in the army as hospital attendant, remained at garrison in Lyons (1873) for almost eighteen months. He was thence trans-

ferred to Vichy. His health was then excellent ; he felt strong, was fat, and weighed 80 kilogrammes. At Vichy he met with numerous easy occasions of venereal excesses, and by their abuse his health became impaired.

“ He had gone to the country, the 15th August, 1877, with several companions and women. In the midst of the dinner, and under no influence of alcoholic excitement, he was seized with shivering, followed by a very great uneasiness. He fainted away, lost consciousness, and they thought him dead. He recovered himself slowly. The first sense to wake up was hearing ; he could hear what was said by him. Motionless, in utter impossibility to articulate one word, he heard the chief physician to the hospital pronounce the words, ‘epileptic fit.’ He wanted to deny it, but could not do it. He had three other similar attacks on the same day ; carried into the hospital, he remained there six weeks, having at first every day, and then every other day, similar attacks, until they gradually became more distant, and when he was considered better he was allowed a furlough, which he spent with his family.

“ He left the army entirely in November, 1877, and resided about one year in the country with his family. He then became tired, and coming to Paris towards the end of 1878, he entered into the Lyons Railroad Company, and was sent as accountant to Villeneuve-Saint-Georges. Being a good officer, very much liked by his companions, he seemed happy, and anxious to keep his situation. One day he came over to spend the afternoon in Paris, and, as he was about returning to his place in the evening, he was seized suddenly by one of his attacks, at the Place de la Bastille. His companions carried him to a hotel, Rue de la Cerisaie, believing that rest would be sufficient for his recovery. He remained there twenty days, and as his means began to be exhausted, the physician who attended him advised him to go to the Saint Antoine Hospital, into which he was admitted in April 1879, and placed in the wards visited by Dr. Mesnet.

“ If I have insisted on these preliminaries, it is because I consider it necessary to establish distinctly that D— had been for a long time ill when he entered into Saint Antoine Hospital. The disorders he exhibited there were of an uncommon nature ; some inexperienced observers had mistaken them, whilst others, puzzled by their character, looked upon them with more systematic than scientific incredulity. To those who, on the contrary, more familiar with nervous derangements, met in D— with a subject for interesting study, his case only presented a complex neurosis, it being further possible to reproduce in it at will the phenomena which have been observed in analogous instances by other observers.

“ I could not enter into all the details noticed in the complete observation of D—,* and will only sum up the principal facts, in order to bring out prominently the main features of the malady.

* Dr. Mesnet intends to publish the notes at a future day.

"D— is seized, without any regular periodicity, by attacks of somnambulism, during which he becomes apt to undergo the influence of a will other than his own, to obey orders without possible resistance, and to reproduce unconsciously, without memory thereof, in an automatic manner, acts corresponding either to his ideas while awake, or to those which are suggested to him. These attacks were at first exclusively spontaneous, but afterwards they have been easily provoked. Both kinds are identical in their nature; they are in every respect analagous to the phenomena produced in highly hysterical women. They are accompanied with extasis, catalepsy, and with complete anæsthesia throughout their duration. The spontaneous attacks exhibit as a peculiarity that D— although having altogether ceased to be his own master, can follow up any idea which has engaged his mind while awake. Thus, one night he succeeded in running away from the hospital, and reached the Boulevards. He was arrested and brought back to the hospital by some *sergents de ville* (policemen). Now, it was known that he felt very tired, having repeatedly asked for leave to go out, and, before his evasion, he had written a letter thanking the physician-in-chief for his kindness, and begging for his *exeat*. In one of the provoked attacks he was made to write the same letter, with the very same words, it being possible to re-enact then the scenes which happened during the stage of spontaneous somnambulism.

"Nothing is easier than to make D— pass from the normal, or first condition, into the pathological or second condition. It is not even necessary for such a purpose to resort to the means which superinduce the hypnotism, and once brought into that condition he becomes completely deprived of his will. All that I have seen in him during such a condition is in accordance with what may be obtained in patients affected with nervous troubles. I will not occupy myself in attempting its explanation, for we do not as yet know it. We can only record similar facts, hoping that patient enquiry, or perhaps a happy hazard, may disclose their concealed scientific interpretation.

"But such states, chiefly among males, do not develop themselves without previous preparation, without having been kept up by particular conditions, such for instance as derangement of general health. When D— entered the Saint Antoine Hospital he was ill and anæmic. This man was then subject to considerable losses of blood. He had on the outer and lower part of the left nipple a pediculated tumour, like a mushroom, with a budding surface which most readily bled (*melæna*). He was, besides, subject to hæmoptysis, which had ceased for months to reappear suddenly, with such an abundance as to be always followed by syncope.

D— had had, the 18th August, 1880, in Rue Druot, an attack of this kind, and it was necessary to carry him into a pharmacy shop, where he was attended. The hæmoptysis returned in October, and as D— grew thereby more enfeebled, his nights became bad, and the attacks of somnambulism reappeared. He had besides 'absences'

in the daytime. Those around him felt uneasy, without exactly understanding his state, and urged him to place himself under treatment. Finally, the 18th October, he had considerable vomiting of blood, almost filling up a basin, and thereupon he was seized with syncope. Dr. Bartrand was called to attend him, as attested by a certificate in the minutes of evidence at the trial. This physician had attended D— before, and, without knowing the nervous state of the patient, had remarked, ‘a state of weakening and hebetude which deprived him of free will.’ That same day, October 18th, D— had another hæmorrhage; in the evening, feeling quite exhausted, and afraid of going up to the sixth floor to look for his portemonnaie, he borrowed five francs from one of his companions at the shop to get a draught of perchloride of iron, which a chemist in the Faubourg Poissonnière had on other occasions put up for him. On his way to the chemist he kept on spitting blood, as evidenced by two handkerchiefs stained with blood, found in his pockets at the moment of his arrest, and one of them belonging to his master. As he passed by Rue Saint Cecile, he went into the public urinal, and wet his handkerchief with the water running from the washing tube fixed on the vertical slab, to remove more easily the blood sticking to his moustache. From this moment he does not recollect what had happened, nor how long he remained there motionless. The report of the agents states that he so remained for three-quarters of an hour, as may have been possible; nay, it is even probable that he would have continued still longer had he not been roughly aroused from that state, which, as I believe, is not to be wondered at, after becoming aware of the series of troubles I have already narrated. What can be, however, less readily granted is, that a man who, upon being seized in the morning with a terrible hæmorrhage, continued throughout the day and evening to vomit blood freely, and who was seen by a physician, by his master, and by another workman in a state of extreme exhaustion, could have had, on the night of that very same day, strength to persist for three-quarters of an hour in acts of masturbation, or of such a nature as to constitute the offence of public outrage to decency. The fact, in my opinion, bears in itself by reasons altogether physiological, the evidence of its physical impossibility, which I deem my duty to point out.

“Consequently, granting on the one hand, the fact directly observed by myself and by physicians of unquestionable authority; and on the other hand on the information I have been able to obtain, and which disclose the whole events during the day of the 18th October, when the prisoner was seriously ill, we are authorized to conclude that D— could not have committed the public outrage to decency for which he has been indicted. That if his attitude, during the long time he remained in the public urinal, might have seemed suspicious to the agents on watch, such a singular posture, and such a prolonged stay, find their explanation without any difficulty in the pathological conditions which I have here detailed.

“Signed : A. MOTET.”

During the audience we maintained strenuously the above conclusions : we affirmed that D— was not a sound person ; and we demonstrated, basing on the records kept at the Saint Antoine Hospital, that the beginning of the complex neurosis which he displayed dated from no recent time. We showed that D— presents two states : one normal, during which he is responsible for his acts, the other pathological, during which he ceases to be his own master, to control himself, and we stated that during this second condition, of which he had no recollection, he was wholly irresponsible.

President Manan took the evidence of the two agents who arrested D—. Their testimony affirmed in the most categorical terms the offence of public outrage to decency ; it even went further, for the agents pretended that D— was well known to them, that he frequented the passages, that they had often followed his traces from eight until nine in the evening. Yet it was proved by two witnesses that D— *never went out* before half-past ten or eleven o'clock at night. He was the last to retire, being charged with closing up the shop, and with arranging everything before his departure. We were not concerned with the discussion of the agents' testimony, and being asked by the President as to whether they affected our conclusions, we replied that we still held to them without any change.

The Attorney-General Bertrand, in a request as striking by the temper as by the dignity of the discussion, remarked to us—"The facts are materially established ; two men have testified on their oath that they have seen D— commit a public outrage to decency ; we, as magistrates, have nothing else to do than to apply the law. You physicians, come forward to tell us that this man is not responsible ; but you have told us also that together with the nervous and cerebral troubles, he exhibits periods of a normal state. If it is true that he successively passes from periods of the *first condition* or normal, into periods of the *second condition* or pathological, let it then be proved that at the moment at which he was arrested that he was in a state of the *second condition*."

In all medico-legal cases in which we have interfered, we have always made a law to affirm only that of which we were certain. We could not, therefore, reply to the pressing question of the Attorney-General by saying that it was certain that D— was, at the time of his arrest, in a state of the second condition. Yet we could take again the data of the observation to manifest how important must be the loss of recollection to discriminate the state of the accused at any given moment.

The Court, however, had shown some hesitancy and doubts, considering it difficult to admit that a man might pass through such different states, and undergo the influence of a will other than his own. We proposed to make the Court witness an experiment as simple as it is easy to accomplish, and which for our masters Professors Laségue, Charcot, Vulpian, and several others, has long since ceased to belong to the

group of extraordinary and been ranged among the pathological facts.

It was really with a pathological fact that we were dealing ; and should the experiment have failed to add a new proof, in proposing it we stood on scientific grounds. Medical jurisprudence practised by independent men, as we all are, having no other aim beyond truth and its demonstration, cannot but improve by such tests, and, for our part, we very much thank the President of the Court of Appeals of Correctional Police for his willingness to be convinced, and to allow us to afford him at once the means thereof.

This is the manner in which we proceeded. D—, we stated, can easily be placed into a *state of second condition*. It is sufficient to force him to look fixedly during a few instants. By so doing we put him into a stage of provoked somnambulism, in which, ceasing to be his own, he became deprived of free will and obeyed ours. We were closed with some of the counsellors in the council chamber, and D— was in the room for the accused. We called him ; as soon as he heard our voice he rushed towards us, pushing aside the guards of Paris on his way, with the force of a man who overthrows an obstacle, opened the door of the room, and, once arrived near us, he stopped motionless and waited. At that moment he did not know or see anyone but us and only obeyed us. The President, desiring to assure himself about the loss of recollection concerning the facts relating to the attack, asked, us in a low voice to order him to loose his trousers. We told him, “D— undress yourself.” He takes off his clothes with quickness. Then, by request of the President, we asked him, “What have you done at the urinal, do you remember it?” And we placed him before the wall. Thereupon he takes out his handkerchief, brings it near the wall, and makes the gesture several times in succession of wiping his mouth. We awoke him by the mere blowing of cold air to his eyes, and his physiognomy expresses a deep surprise at finding himself there. The President approached him and said to him—“D—, you have just uncovered your person before us.” “I don’t believe it, sir,” replied he. “All these gentlemen saw you as well ; look at yourself, you have not buttoned up your trousers—they are not adjusted.” “Sir, I don’t remember it.”

Dr. Mesnet was present at the audience. By our request the President allowed him to come into the Council Chamber. He also took hold of D—, and in a few seconds brought him into the condition in which we had placed him previously. From this moment we became as much strangers to D— as the other persons who were present. Dr. Mesnet ordered him to write, and setting him near a table with paper and a pen, he made him write the first lines of the letter he had addressed him from the gaol of La Santé. While D— was writing we showed his complete anæsthesia.

The experiment was then considered sufficient. D— was awakened, and taken back to the room of the accused.

On resuming the audience, the Court rendered the following judgment :—

“Whereas if it seems established that D— committed the acts for which he has been indicted, it is not sufficiently established that he is morally responsible for them.

“Considering, in fact, as it results from Dr. Motet’s examination extending back to a long date, that the accused falls often into a state of somnambulism, that in such state he could not be held responsible for his acts ; whereas the said examination has been further strengthened by an experiment before the Chamber in council ; and that under such circumstances D— could not be regarded as responsible, the Court annuls the judgment on appeal, and dismisses D— from all charge.”

3. *German Retrospect.*

By WILLIAM W. IRELAND, M.D.

The German Retrospect has been done from the following periodicals :—

“Archiv. für Psychiatrie und Nervenkrankheiten,” x. Band, 2 and 3 Heft, 1880 ; xi. Band, 1 and 2 Heft. Berlin, 1881.

“Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie,” xxxvi. Band, 4, 5 and 6 Heft ; xxxvii. Band, 1 Heft, 2, 3, and 4 Heft. Berlin, 1880.

“Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde, Psychiatrie, und Gerichtliche Psycho-Pathologie,” Nrs. 15 to 24, 1880 ; and Nrs. 1 and 2, 1881, Leipzig.

“Der Irrenfreund.” Nrs. 7 to 12, 1880 ; and Nr. 1, 1881, Heilbronn.

“Verhandlungen der Physiologischen Gesellschaft zu. Berlin,” 9th August, 1880.

“Die Schrift, Grundzüge ihrer Physiologie and Pathologie,” von Dr. Albrecht Erlenmeyer. Stuttgart, 1879.

The Central Origin of the Optic Nerves.

This, according to Stelling (“Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde,” 15th August, 1880), is as follows :—

1. From the branch which enters the optic thalamus in part by means of the lateral corpus geniculatum.
2. From the known branch which goes and the middle of the corpus geniculatum.
3. From the superficial branch which goes directly to the corpora quadrigemina.
4. From the origin of the crus cerebri.
5. From the tuber cinereum.
6. From the locus perforatus anticus.
7. From the surface of the optic thalami.