

position to any of these diseases, or mutation in character of hereditary diathesis, with the exception of the statement that the mother was a very fretful, anxious, and indulgent woman, more especially toward the childhood and adolescence of the patient.

It is difficult to incline to the belief that the state of insanity could produce any special predisposing tendency to the great nervous and muscular excitement of this case, as the drug is commonly used here in numerous and similar cases without any bad symptoms. As a case in point, may be mentioned that of a woman labouring under the same class of mental disease, viz., delusional insanity, with a very similar and synchronous attack of rheumatism, where the same dose and quality of salicylate was being taken with the same frequency, but without the slightest effect as regards cerebral symptoms, although the woman is of a much more unstable, irritable, and impulsive nervous temperament, and of the two women would have been, in one's estimation and expectation, the more liable to an outburst of maniacal excitement under such circumstances.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

The Annual Meeting.

The fifty-fourth Annual Meeting, held in London, has fully justified the prolongation so successfully inaugurated at Dublin last year. The number of subjects dealt with has been greater than at any meeting antecedent to this extension, whilst the merit and interest of the communications made are testified by the extent and keenness of the discussions.

The demonstrations, by Dr. Rivers on experimental psychology, and by Dr. W. F. Robertson, of his very beautiful microscopic preparations, excited general interest.

The splintering of lances between two such doughty champions as Drs. Clouston and Batty Tuke was also awaited with interested expectation, which the tilt fully justified. We hope to see many similar carefully prepared disputations on vexed questions, and expect an answer to Dr. Clouston's concluding challenge.

The Presidential Address, as was to be anticipated, bore the impress of the independent thought, and wide observa-

tion, which distinguish Dr. Nicolson, and will probably serve as a wholesome check to those who have been rapidly reducing the study of criminology to an object *pour rire*. The discussion on the Address showed how fully the President was in touch with the views of British medical opinion in this respect.

The presentation to our late Treasurer, Dr. Paul, was a very pleasant feature of the meeting. The very handsome silver bowl, with the accompanying illuminated vellum, we trust, may long serve to remind Dr. Paul of the esteem in which he is held by the Association and of the appreciation of his valuable services as Treasurer during the long period of thirty-three years.

The loss which the Association has sustained by the death of our late Editor, Dr. Hack Tuke, must have impressed itself on every member present, and will long be felt on these occasions, on which his genial personality exercised a widespread influence. We trust that the memorial which is being raised, may lastingly perpetuate our affectionate regard for him at our annual gatherings, and so "keep green his memory."

The excursion to Broadmoor on Saturday drew a large number of members, who were genially received and most hospitably entertained by the President. The visit was of great interest to many members, who thus obtained an opportunity of renewing their acquaintance with cases whom they had previously known and of personally seeing or conversing with patients whose cases had long been familiar. The excursion was most successfully planned and was thoroughly enjoyed.

The visit to Virginia Water on Monday was also well attended. The architectural and decorative aspects of modern hospitals for the insane are here to be seen in their fullest development, and it must have been of interest to many to see the structural adaptations which have been made since the opening of the institution. Here too the visitors were most hospitably entertained, and the afternoon drive through Windsor Park added greatly to the enjoyment of the day.

The Association dinner of the present year was unusually well attended and was remarkable for the number of distinguished visitors, prominent amongst whom was the Speaker of the House of Commons. The success of the evening was largely due to the exertions of the President, who spared no effort to make the occasion one that should help to extend the position and influence of the Association.

British Medical Association.

The Psychological Section of the British Medical Association gave the strongest evidence that the preceding meeting of our Association had not exhausted the literary powers or interest of our specialty. The attendance at the sittings was large, and bore a favourable contrast in this respect to many other sections. This is not surprising when the subjects of the papers and the reputation of their authors are considered.

The Presidential Address, Dr. Maudsley on Responsibility, and Dr. Gowers on Epilepsy could not fail to be attractive; the less prominent papers were also of great interest and value. There was, too, an unusual number of communications of the kind which tend to bring the specialty into more close relation with the profession in general; this, indeed, should always constitute the main object of the sectional meetings of our specialty.

Gratuities.

The question of obtaining gratuities to the families of employes who have lost their lives in the service of an asylum for the insane, was raised at the Annual Meeting. This subject needs prompt consideration and action on the part of the Association, since such cases are evidently by no means rare.

The principle of the liability of the employer in similar circumstances is now recognized in law, and there should be very little difficulty in obtaining legal recognition of the claims of asylum officers under such conditions.

The recognition of the justice of such claims by asylum authorities, by the granting of liberal gratuities to the widows of attendants whose husbands had died from injuries