

histological changes of a chronic nature were found in the motor regions. It is quite possible, however, that localised changes, of the nature of those described by Angiolella, may have escaped observation.

(¹) *Annali di Neurologia*, 1898, p. 277.—(²) *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, 1900, p. 896.—(³) *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, 1900, p. 723.

FIG. 1.—Horizontal section of anterior part of right frontal lobe, 40 mm. above under surface of lobe. (a) Mesial surface. (b) Outer surface. (c) Softened tissue.

FIG. 2.—Horizontal section of anterior part of right frontal lobe, 25 mm. above under surface of lobe. (a) Mesial surface. (b) Outer surface. (c) Softened tissue. (d) Anterior extremity of lenticular nucleus. Weigert-Pal staining.

Occasional Notes.

Warneford Asylum.

The Warneford Asylum has recently been subjected to a considerable amount of unjust censure which yields a good illustration of the prejudices of the public mind in lunacy matters, and the consequent inability of forming just conclusions in relation to them.

The foundation of the censure was a case of homicide and suicide by a patient recently discharged on trial. The coroner, without a word of evidence in regard to the circumstances of the patient's discharge, remarked on the "loose way" in which the patient had been turned out on society. According to one newspaper report he even made, in the absence of all evidence on the point, an invidious comparison between the precautions taken in this and another asylum. We can only conclude that he was as ignorant of one set of precautions as of the other.

The coroner's remark, although obviously founded on no scrap of evidence, was eagerly seized on for very invidious comment by the daily press, in the time-honoured manner on such occasions.

The committee of the asylum, however, forwarded a full statement of the circumstances under which leave of absence was granted in the case in question to the Commissioners

in Lunacy. The Commissioners, after considering what they term the "full and detailed report," write that "it appears to prove that the medical superintendent exercised due care and showed good judgment in the matter, and that the unfortunate incident which occurred did not result from any failure in the exercise of those qualities."

The judgment of the Lunacy Commission, formed after a due consideration of all the circumstances, must outweigh a thousandfold the emotional expression (for it cannot be dignified as a judgment) of the coroner, founded neither on facts nor experience.

If the coroner had obtained evidence from the asylum he would certainly have been saved from falling into such an error, and from committing an injustice to the medical officer, who has now been so fully and amply exonerated.

The lesson inculcated is that in all such cases evidence from the asylum should not only be tendered but pressed on the coroner. The pressure was impossible on this occasion, owing to the absence from England of the superintendent.

Such evidence would gradually educate the public to understand that the discharge of recovered patients is always attended with risk of relapse, and that occasionally, in spite of the greatest care and the exercise of the best and wisest experience, such regrettable incidents must from time to time occur. The public have to be brought to understand that discharges cannot be made without relapses, and that relapses cannot occur without occasional danger.

Lunacy Statistics.

"Statistics may be made to prove anything" is a common assertion, and it might also be asserted that they may be made to prove nothing. Such results, however, can only arise from the tabulation of facts too heterogeneous to be of value, or from the wilful or ignorant misuse of really valuable figures. Statistics of rightly chosen facts, when rightly used, can demonstrate, with reasonable certainty, general laws and averages of the utmost value.

The early years of a new century, like the early days of a