

seen beneath the pia arachnoid, distributed in a patchy manner over the frontal, occipital, and cerebellar regions, and most of the base; it was also present in the lateral ventricles, but especially so in the right, which was greatly distended by clots. This hæmorrhage resulted from the rupture of a sacculated aneurysm on the right middle cerebral artery, about the size of a pea, which had caused softening of the anterior portion of the island of Reil, gradually pushed its way towards, and finally ruptured into the right lateral ventricle. This aneurysm showed no fibrinous deposit, being thin-walled and perfectly empty. Another large sacculated aneurysm arose from the right internal carotid just as it pierced the dura; it was quite hard, being almost completely closed by laminated fibrin, about the size of a walnut, oval in shape, its long axis lying antero-posteriorly; below it pressed on the right cavernous sinus, and above had softened a considerable area, involving a portion of the anterior perforated space and uncinatè gyrus. But for these areas of softening the cortex cerebri, both micro and macroscopically, showed no departure from normal. The heart was hypertrophied, and the aorta, cranial, and other arteries markedly atheromatous. The other organs do not call for special comment.

The principal points of interest in the above case are :

(1) The causation—evidently atheroma,—and cardiac hypertrophy.

(2) The spontaneous cure undergone by the larger aneurysm, evidently due to its own pressure on the trunk of the internal carotid in the cavernous sinus.

(3) The fact that the reputed site of the auditory centre is in the temporo-sphenoidal lobe, lends special interest to the association of persistent auditory hallucinations, and delusions founded thereon, with extensive degeneration of the uncinatè gyrus, the cortical lesion here being of much greater extent than that caused by the smaller aneurysm on the middle cerebral.

Occasional Notes.

The Professional Examination of the Medico-Psychological Association.

Specialisation is ever advancing, and examination follows fast; if the one is established the other is almost justified. The reasons for an examination in medico-psychology are

certainly cogent, and it is to be hoped will be more convincing in the future to possible examinees than they appear to have been recently.

Medical men are now compelled to attend a course of lectures and clinical teaching on insanity, but few, if any of them are subjected to examination therein, so that they approach the duties of treating incipient insanity, certifying for lunacy, and in many instances the taking charge of single cases without any adequate test of their ability for such work.

That all medical men should pass a special examination in medico-psychology is unnecessary, but some proof of knowledge of insanity is certainly most desirable for those who undertake special relations to the insane.

The care of single insane patients, for example, should only be undertaken by medical men who have attained some special knowledge of the insane, by study or experience. The present state of the law, which admits of any one, medical or lay, taking charge of an insane person, is a scandal of the first magnitude.

What would the public say if it understood that lunatics were often taken charge of by persons without any special knowledge or experience, and that there was no mode by which the Commissioners in Lunacy could insist on such tests of fitness for such important responsibilities. The Association assuredly has a duty to perform in enlightening the public on the existence of this grave abuse.

The certification of the insane—a most important and onerous matter,—is by law thrust on medical men, however inexperienced in such work ; there is no other way by which a lunatic can be put under control, and hundreds of medical men are most unwillingly compelled by force of circumstances to undertake this grave and disagreeable imposition. The law, we may hope, sooner or later, will provide that certification shall be done by medical men specially qualified, and in that event, the passing of the Medico-Psychological Association's examination should be made one test of a qualified certifier

Poor-law medical officers who have to sign numerous certificates of lunacy, should also have obtained some special knowledge before entering on work which at present they have usually to learn by experience, taught perhaps at heavy expense to their patients.

The existing Medico-Psychological Association examination would, no doubt, as it was intended, be sufficient to qualify students or medical men for such work ; but for the more highly specialised posts of superintending institutions for the insane a higher qualification should be necessary, comparable to the Diploma of Public Health.

The Commissioners now insist on a certain amount of experience in persons undertaking the superintendency of private asylums, but they cannot prevent the committees of county or borough asylums from occasionally appointing persons who have had no previous special experience in mental disease ; a higher special examination would make the latter abuse very much more difficult, and render the task of the Commissioners lighter.

To make special examinations a success, therefore, the Association, as a body, should press the need of reform in these matters on the Legislature, enlighten the public in regard to them, and enlist the sympathy of the general profession ; unless some definite advantage or expectation of advantage can be held out to candidates, it is to be feared that the number of these will not largely increase.

The Sligo Cruelty Case.

Those who have had much to do with the rapidly increasing and rising class of politicians, may be disposed to echo with a slight alteration the words of the Latin poet, which Tom Ingoldsby was so fond of, "*politicum si dixeris omnia dixisti* ;" but we are at present inclined to look at things in another way, and to entertain a real regard for the Irish politician. For a long time we could not understand why many of the most prominent of the Irish political leaders have expressed a strong desire to make the care of the insane in Ireland a national charge, and to place their management entirely in the hands of the Government. We did not see why a scheme should find favour so much at variance with modern democratic notions of Local Government. We believe we understand it now, that is, if anybody can understand anything Irish.

In the *Irish Times* newspaper of May 14th, 1901, we find the following announcement :