

of reaching a harmony between themselves and their surroundings, the conscious lack of which is the prevailing trouble of the insane.

A Case of Pellagra in Central Asylum. By WILLIAM F. SAMUELS, Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery, Dublin, Medical Superintendent, Central Lunatic Asylum, Tanjong Rambutan, Federated Malay States.

FOR some time past now cases of pellagra have been reported from different parts of the world. I attach notes of a case which I believe was pellagra which occurred in the F.M.S. Asylum at Tanjong Rambutan, F.M.S.

N.T.S., Chinese. Was transferred from Kuala Lumpur on January 26th, 1912. He had been admitted there on January 9th, 1912. There is no mention of any skin affection at the time of his admission, but some months after I noticed pigmentation of the dorsum of his feet, front of his ankles, and the backs of his hands. Little notice was paid to it, though the pigmentation persisted.

The next entry as to the state of his skin was in December, 1913, when he was admitted to No. 1 (Infirmary Ward) with fever. It was then noted that there were "small ulcers on his hands and legs." These corresponded to the area already noted as having been pigmented. They were superficial and clean, and rapidly healed, leaving the pigmentation rather more marked and the skin somewhat thickened and wrinkled. It now dawned upon me that this might possibly be a case of pellagra, but nothing further was noticed till the end of August, 1914, when he developed a marked erythema at the back of both hands and wrists. The skin exfoliated, and the patches then rapidly healed, leaving pigmented areas as before.

In October the same condition was again noted in backs of the hands, wrists, and extensor aspect of the forearm. A few days later the dorsum of feet and front of ankles were noticed to be in the same condition; and shortly after the same appearance was noted on the side of nose. He now developed diarrhoea, but no blood or mucus was passed. The skin exfoliated, and a red raw surface was left "like a burn of the third degree." The lips now showed much the same condition, while later the tongue became denuded of epithelium, and small superficial patches of ulceration appeared on the palate. His appetite, which had previously been voracious, now failed. But even before the failure of the appetite, when he ate quite enough for two men and craved for more, he never was anything but miserably thin. The skin affection gradually spread till it reached the elbows and knees, and now, for the first time, showed any tendency to attack the flexor aspect. Up to this the trouble had been strictly confined to the extensor aspect. From this on he gradually went down hill, and died, on November 18th, 1914, of hypostatic pneumonia.

Mentally, he was a melancholic, but was all through extremely peevish. He was continually complaining of ill-treatment, which, on investigation, proved to be groundless. He complained that he was

brought here under false pretences, being told he was to be made a king on arrival ; also that "they" would not let him sleep, and cut him with axes. He never gave an explanation as to who "they" were. Eventually he ceased to speak of these persecutors, and sank deeper and deeper into a condition of melancholic stupor, and was with difficulty roused. It is unfortunate that no careful notes were taken of the earlier attack, but the possibility of its being pellagra did not dawn on me until the end of what was apparently the second, or perhaps even the third attack, as the pigmentation was noted before his first attack here.

There are many points in favour of pellagra in this case. The repeated attacks leaving a dry wrinkled pigmented condition of skin behind. The distribution of the skin affection, starting as an erythema on the back of the hands and dorsum of feet, and its limitation to the extensor aspects of the limbs until near the end ; the patch appearing at the side of the nose ; the "bald tongue" and involvement of the palate ; the voracious appetite, while the patient all the time remained thin ; the attacks of diarrhoea ; the peevishness and continual complaining, together with the gradually and steadily deepening melancholia. These symptoms look extremely like those of a case of pellagra, and, while I confess I have never seen one and only go on what I have read, and am open to correction, I cannot see what else it could be. I believe it to be the first case of pellagra described in the Federated Malay States.

I have to thank Mr. G. Abraham, Assistant-Surgeon, Central Asylum, for the care with which he noted the last attack.

Occasional Notes.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., and the State Registration of Nurses.

EARLY in 1916 an Association was formed, consisting largely of influential laymen and others interested in hospital nursing, for the purpose of standardising the education of nurses and securing their State registration. Foremost amongst the pioneers of the movement we may mention the names of the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P. (now Sir Arthur Stanley, Gr.C.B.E.), well known for his eminent services in connection with the organisation of volunteer nurses for war purposes, and Sir E. Cooper Perry, M.D., Superintendent of Guy's Hospital, with Sir Henry Burdett, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., (Editor of *The Hospital*), Miss Swift, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of the Volunteer Nursing Service, and a number of matrons of general hospitals to which