

appear to the author, who was very early in the field in experimenting on the action of chloroform, to be misleading. The fact is that what may be true of the lower animals does not hold good of man. The mental differences are great, especially, Dr. Richardson thinks, in regard to the feeling of fear. The dog cannot apprehend any danger from the administration of chloroform. At the same time there is ample evidence that the subjects of the experiments were exceedingly frightened, and struggled to escape from the experimenter. Secondly, there are physical differences. Among animals there are few who are in a condition of health that can be called *Morituri*, while among men there are many in danger of death from a trifling external cause. It is among this class that death from chloroform is not infrequent. Thirdly, there are "operative" or accidental differences, such as surgical shock.

These are points of interest to the student of mental science. The other portion of the paper, equally important as it is, scarcely falls under our notice. We may add, however, that it is the opinion of Dr. Richardson that deaths from chloroform will still go on at the rate of 1 in 2,500 administrations, as estimated long ago by him. While according the highest credit to the Hyderabad Commission, he cannot admit that it has solved the problem of the cause of death in man, or has reduced that cause to one.

The other articles of this number are of equal interest, including one on Dr. Monro (with portrait), and the origin of the Edinboro' Medical School.

Everyone must desire that Dr. Richardson may be long spared to write—not edit—his truly remarkable and highly interesting journal.

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*Recherches sur l'Étiologie de la Paralyse Générale chez l'Homme.* Par le Dr. JULES CHRISTIAN, Médecin de la Maison Nationale de Charenton.

This pamphlet, one of the publications of the *progrès médical*, contains the valuable results arrived at by the distinguished physician of Charenton, whose article on General Paralysis, written in conjunction with his colleague Ritti for the "Dictionnaire Encyclopédique des Sciences Médicales," is an excellent monograph.

We give a summary of the conclusions as to the causes of the disease, M. Christian feels justified in drawing from his wide experience of this form of mental disease —

"1. Predisposing causes : Comparative weakness of brain, congenital or acquired, in the majority of cases.

"2. Exciting causes : Anything which causes prolonged fatigue of the brain (trouble, insomnia, excess of study, or physical labour). The latter causes may be comprised in one word, *Surmenage* (overwork).

"So that if I wished to sum up all the foregoing in a general formula, I should say the cause of general paralysis is *Surmenage du Cerveau* in adult life. If these views are correct, it would be possible to push the analysis further and determine by induction the original lesion of the malady. For if we examine the causes which I have enumerated, those whose action is sudden and violent (fear, etc.), as well as those which only act slowly and insidiously (trouble, etc.), it cannot be doubted that they cause changes, rapid or slow, in the cerebral circulation. I should say as much of physical causes (traumatism, sunstroke, etc.).

"As regards the increase in the frequency of general paralysis, it appears to me to be a reality, for if the causes which I have examined are not new, we must recognize that they operate in the present day under totally different conditions ; our social condition differs profoundly from that which obtained only a century ago. Everyone has nowadays an illimitable horizon before him, and feels that on him alone rests the responsibility of reaching the goal he desires ; every ambition he is allowed to indulge in. . . . It is thus that the number of *surmenés* increases fatally, and it appears to me that the number of general paralytics must increase. If my views are correct, we cannot expect that this increase can be arrested. But it is not *civilization* which we ought to accuse, for civilization—that vague word so much abused—comprises more good than evil and improves the condition of existence. The one thing to blame is the *Surmenage*, which aims a fatal blow at those who have not the power to bear the struggle of life (*le combat pour la vie*)."

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### PART III.—PSYCHOLOGICAL RETROSPECT.

#### 1. *French Retrospect.*

By HAVELOCK ELLIS, L.S.A.

*The Congress of Criminal Anthropology.*

The second International Congress of Criminal Anthropology was held last August at Paris, in the large amphitheatre of the Faculty