

lunacy along the lines suggested by the Committee would be a mistake, but a system somewhat analogous to that of England, which has, as in Ireland, a Lord Chancellor's jurisdiction, and much the same code of law, would be more feasible. I have to thank Dr. James Cameron for his aid in connection with some points of Scottish Lunacy Law.

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*Two Cases of Insanity with Goitre treated with Thyroid Extract.* By THOMAS SAMUEL McCLAUGHRY, L.R.C.S.I.,  
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I desire to call attention to a mode of treatment which has not yet been generally adopted in cases of goitre, and to submit two cases in which thyroid gland was administered. The preparation used was five grains of the extract in tabloid form. The result in both cases was highly encouraging, though one was much more so than the other from a mental point of view.

Case I.—Maria R., admitted 20th August, 1891, having previously attempted to set fire to her house and to murder her husband and son. From then till 27th January, 1894, she had undergone various means of treatment for a large bronchocele from which she suffered, her mind during this time being very much deranged. She was treacherous and morose, wandering about in an apathetic manner, taking no interest in her surroundings, never employed in any way, and, if thwarted, inclined to be violent. During this period all medicines recommended by modern teaching had been employed (with the exception of injection of tr. iodine), but without any obvious change in her mental state. She had, indeed, passed into the category of almost hopeless cases.

On January 27th, 1894, after consultation with Dr. Hatchell, it was decided to employ the thyroid treatment. One tabloid of five grs. was given in each meal, as she refused to swallow them. The measurement of her neck on that day was 15½ inches.

On February 11th, about a fortnight after commencement of treatment, I made a very careful physical and mental examination, and found a marked improvement. Instead of the patient walking away or holding down her head when questioned, she now answered in a fairly intelligent manner. On measuring her neck I found it to be but 15¼ inches, showing a decrease of half an inch. At this period I reasoned with her, and asked her to take the tabloids, which she consented to do, having been up to this time unaware that they had been administered in her food.

On February 27th, one month after commencement of treatment, I found the circumference of the neck to be 15 inches, showing a decrease of three-quarters of an inch. Her mental improvement was very marked, having become bright, cheerful, and industrious, taking an interest in her surroundings, and frequently speaking about her home and children.

March 6th.—As the tabloid treatment has not caused any disagreeable symptoms, such as digestive disturbance or variation in temperature, it was decided to give an extra half tabloid at each meal.

April 18th.—Patient to-day complains of a lightness in her head, which has

troubled her for some days, and which she attributes to the tabloids; they are accordingly suspended.

May 8th.—Although the treatment has now been suspended for about three weeks there has been no relapse; tabloids are again resumed, one at each meal.

June 8th.—Treatment stopped, as she is now apparently quite rational. She frequently speaks about her home and children, and wishes to be discharged. She has undergone a complete transformation.

Case II.—Elizabeth K., admitted 7th August, 1893. She had been very violent previous to admission, having assaulted her father and mother and suffered from the delusion that her house was surrounded by men who attempted to get into her bed at night. From the time of admission till 27th January, 1894, her mental symptoms very much resembled the former case. She was morose and listless, and never employed herself in any way. When questioned she would very seldom answer. Thyroid treatment was begun on the same day as in the former case, the result being that the mental change was not quite so marked, but the physical change was much more decided, as the bronchocele has completely disappeared. The loss in flesh was also much greater. At present she is quiet, obedient, and industrious, and is apparently quite happy, but very seldom speaks.

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*Observations upon the Pathology of Othæmatoma.* By EDWIN GOODALL, M.D., Joint Counties Asylum, Carmarthen.

About the close of 1892 I examined bacteriologically some cases of othæmatoma, with a view of ascertaining if there was any basis for the idea which occurred to me, and which I mooted in an article in the "Journal of Mental Science" for April, 1893, that that condition was the result of bacterial activity. In none of the cases examined was there a history of injury. In the first two (an adult imbecile and a chronic maniac) cover-slip preparations of the extravasated blood—taken with full precautions as regards cleanliness—showed staphylococci, singly, in twos, in fours, and in small groups. In size the cocci resembled closely *S. pyogenes aureus* or *albus*. An attempt to cultivate the organism on gelatine and broth failed; unfortunately no agar was at hand. In the light of subsequent experience, I believe that this failure may, with much probability, be attributed to the fact that the amount of material transferred to the culture-tubes was too small. Several drops of the sero-sanguinolent extravasate should be taken for each tube. In the third case (that of a dement) what appeared to be the same organism was found in the cover-slip preparations, and grown upon broth and agar in pure culture. A thick zooglœa-mass formed upon the surface of the broth. Upon the agar the growth first appeared in white points, these later ran together, the growth assumed a yellow tint, and the appearance became