

cases may be described as examples of *folie simultanée* (M. Regis), and are undoubtedly striking examples of persons becoming insane from companionship, not in consequence of any direct transference of morbid ideas, but from the shock arising out of the painful impressions caused by witnessing the attack and the strain of nursing the patient. The important facts about these cases are—(1) The exciting cause was the same in both cases, viz. the illness of their sister, Mrs. C—, who may be described as the active agent in the matter. (2) The form of insanity and mental condition were exactly similar. (3) Quiet and uninterrupted recovery in both cases. (4) No direct hereditary predisposition or any marked neurotic tendency. (5) Both sisters were intelligent and well educated for persons of their class (farmers' wives). The sister who recovered and remains recovered at home suffered from periodical headaches and gastric derangements. She had no children. (6) All three sisters were devotedly attached to one another.

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*Major Operations on the Insane.—Notes of a Case of Cataract.* By Major J. H. TULL WALSH, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon of Berhampur; and Superintendent, Berhampur Lunatic Asylum.

I SEND the following notes in connection with Dr. J. H. Sproat's article on the same subject in the *Journal of Mental Science*.

Nimai M—, æt. 40 on admission to the asylum, 19th January, 1893. He committed rape on a woman in March, 1892, and appeared sane at his trial before the magistrate, who sentenced him to three years' rigorous imprisonment. He was sent to the Bhagulpur Central Jail, and was then in good health.

In his description roll it was stated that he had previously been insane, and the cause assigned was failure in business and loss of money. There is no reliable evidence that he was really insane, and no dates are given.

Shortly after admission to the Bhagulpur Jail, Nimai showed signs of insanity. He became quarrelsome, intractable, refused to work. He laboured under the delusion that he was illegally detained in jail, being sentenced to "one day's imprisonment only." He was certified as insane, and sent to the Berhampur Asylum.

On admission he was noisy, voluble, and incoherent; refused to do any work. He remained noisy and excited till July, 1893, when he became quieter as the result of treatment with chloral and bromide of potassium. He became worse again in 1894, and remained noisy and excited. He would sit in one place and scream all day. There was slight improvement in the beginning of 1898, but it did not last, and when I first saw him, in July, 1898, he was incoherent except in regard to

very simple matters, noisy, liable to outbreaks of excitement, and dirty in habits. He had double cataract, and was almost totally blind; he had also a small right inguinal hernia. In October he improved somewhat, and, though very noisy at times, was fairly rational. He varied somewhat, but as I could generally make him understand me I decided to operate on him for his cataract.

On February 17th, 1899, I removed the lens from the left eye, and by keeping careful watch over him prevented any interference with the dressings. He recovered with good sight, and the effect on his mental condition was most marked; he became quiet, rational, and clean in habits. He told us that he was a Christian, and as he had no friends I wrote to the mission to see if employment could be found for him. The missionaries were not able to do anything for him.

In May I operated on the right eye, but he removed the dressings the night after the operation, and the eye did badly, and could only tell light from darkness. He remained sane, however, and appeared very grateful for the restoration of sight. His sentence had expired in 1895, so that there was no difficulty about his release. He was brought before the visitors in May, 1899, and by their order released. I have not heard anything of him since.

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*Spurious Pregnancy.* By G. FINDLAY, M.A., M.B., Brailes, Warwickshire.

ABOUT three years ago I was called to see Mrs. B—, æt. 54, a fairly stout, well-developed woman, mother of nine children, and the wife of an agricultural labourer. Some time before, I had attended her for climacteric disturbances, but her menstrual periods had previously been regular.

She informed me that she believed herself to be pregnant, as she had not menstruated for over three months. I told her that at her age she was not likely to be in that condition, and that the cessation of her periods was due to her time of life; but she persistently said that she was convinced that she was with child, and refused to permit me to make a proper examination, saying that as she had had nine children, and the youngest fifteen years old, she knew perfectly what was the matter. About two months afterwards she called to tell me that her impressions were realised, as she had distinctly felt the child move, and could feel it then; that she had first felt the movements about a fortnight before, when she was at a concert in the village, and that she was getting much stouter round the waist. I again told her that I should like to examine her when she was in bed, but she refused, and asked me to attend her when she was confined.

I did not hear anything more about her until about four months after our last interview. Her husband then came to me at two o'clock one morning, wishing me to attend at once, as his wife was in labour,