

or old, would appear to be an absolute necessity. In addition to this a pharmacopœial committee might be well occupied in bringing the drug preparations up to date in prescribing form, so that the medical prescriber should not be driven by the cumbrous and nauseous forms of the present preparations to prescribe the convenient and tasteless wares of the advertising chemist, who is still further advertised in this way.

The actual dietetic value of artificial foods could nowhere be better tested than in asylums, whose inmates so often stand in need of the most digestible nutritive preparations.

That much practical knowledge of this kind is acquired in asylums at the present time there can be no doubt, but it is of the utmost urgency that this knowledge should be put on record, so that it be available to the profession at large.

This JOURNAL will gladly welcome contributions tending to advance this most important branch of science, in which the physician to a hospital for the insane should stand *facile princeps*.

Hypnotism and Crime.

The Paris *Journal* publishes an account of the "hypnotising" by Professor Liegois, of Nancy, of a woman named Bompard, who was convicted of murder thirteen years ago; at her trial Maître Robert pleaded that she had committed the crime while under the hypnotic influence of a fellow-criminal named Eyraud, who was executed. Maître Robert instigated the investigation.

The report in the *Journal* describes the woman as re-enacting the crime, her actions being photographed and her words taken down by reporters.

According to this, after many refusals, she only consented to take part in the crime on being nearly strangled by Eyraud—a somewhat peculiar method of hypnotism.

In this scene she is reported to have said, "He is strangling me." That she should speak of him in the third person is certainly peculiar.

The report, if correct, shows from internal evidence that if the hypnotic reproduction is reliable, the woman acted from

fear and compulsion, and not from hypnotism. The reliability of the hypnotism, however, in a case where there is such an intense motive for deception, needs accurate investigation. A cinematographic and phonographic record of the hypnotic story, reproduced at a month's interval, and without intermediate rehearsal, would probably go far to throw light on the question.

The Reorganisation of the Association.

It is unnecessary to refer at length to the new articles and bye-laws which have been adopted by the Association at the special meetings held in November and December. The Association is indebted to the Rules Committee for much arduous work, and to Mr. Wigan, the solicitor, for his careful and sound advice throughout these tedious proceedings. We believe that the constitution of the Association is now so framed as to progress with the evolution of the Society, and trust that it will be long suitable to an augmenting Association.

Lunacy Reform in Melbourne.

In the July number of this JOURNAL we referred briefly to the wrong done to Dr. Beattie Smith, and it is evident from the Melbourne newspapers that the incident has caused very severe comments on the Central Administration of the Victorian Asylums. We have already given a narrative of the events which led to Dr. Beattie Smith's removal from the post which he filled so well. The *Argus*, one of the leading papers of Australia, characterises the inquiry as a "Gilbertian arrangement," but it has its tragic side when the interests of the insane are considered. Radical changes have been recommended by the official visitors of the metropolitan asylums. The construction of Kew Asylum and the continuous overcrowding, rendering classification ineffective, are subjected to serious remarks. It is stated that an insufficiency of medical officers, nurses, and attendants adds greatly to the difficulties of management. We cannot find space to give all the details of