

made to make the work of the Association more widely known, and thus secure a larger number of subscribers. During the proceedings Dr. Mocatta promised a donation of £25 if a sum of £1000 was raised by other benefactions. The Rev. H. Hawkins closed the meeting with a sketch of the origin and growth of the Association, mentioning in the course of his remarks that the French society for the same object is far ahead of ours.

INFLUENZA AND ISOLATION.

The epidemic of influenza raises a question of vital importance. Is it possible by isolation to save the risk of infection? It seems to us that the Collective Investigation Committee might obtain an authoritative answer. The recrudescence of this plague year after year has opened a wide field of experience, and still opinion seems to be contradictory and chaotic. Isolated papers and letters, records in asylum case-books, and annual reports should be analysed and brought into focus.

FATIGUE IN SCHOOLS.

Mosso has pointed out that the fatigue curve was characteristic for each person, and that the amount of work done by a muscle could be expressed in terms of work as kilogrammetres; he showed, too, that mental fatigue, in so far as it affected the general nutrition of the body, could also be estimated in kilogrammetres. Acting on this suggestion, Dr. Kemsies has lately employed the ergograph systematically for a year in two large schools in Berlin. Curves were taken before and after lessons, and the particular lesson was noted. The general result of these experiments was that the pupils showed greatest fatigue after gymnastics. With regard to mental exercises, mathematics headed the list; then came foreign languages, religion, and history; natural history showed least fatigue. A specimen of a day's experiments is as follows:—After nine hours' sleep, 5657 kilogrammetres; after one hour lecture, afternoon, 4086 kilogrammetres; after walk and bath, 5282 kilogrammetres; after evening lesson, 4094 kilogrammetres. The fatigue passes off again after two hours from its commencement if the lesson has been changed.

MESCAL.

Mr. Havelock Ellis has, in the *Contemporary Review*, lately recorded the effects of mescal (*Anhalonium Lewinii*) upon two poets, an artist and himself, as Dr. Weir Mitchell did so fully in the *British Medical Journal* of December, 1896. The colour sense in the insane is not infrequently affected painfully or agreeably. It is common to hear complaints that everything looks black or grey in melancholia, and sometimes red is predominant in the ideas and conversation. We are not aware that mescal has been given in these conditions.

WANDERING LUNATICS.

The city coroner of Liverpool, Mr. Sampson, has lately drawn attention to the fact that there is no suitable provision for dealing with persons suffering from the milder forms of mental aberration, and who, while they show no definite marks of insanity, are unable to give any satisfactory account of themselves, and are clearly in a condition in which insane impulses might at any time arise with grave danger either to themselves or to others. Such persons are frequently found by the police wandering at large, and are then conveyed to the bridewell and examined by a medical man. If they are found to be unable to take care of themselves, and yet the medical man does not feel justified in certifying then and there that they are insane, it is manifest that, in the interests both of the sufferers themselves and of the public, they should be retained in some suitable