

*A Case of Pachymeningitis Hæmorrhagica Interna following Sunstroke.* By EDMUND B. WHITCOMBE, M.R.C.S., Windsor Green Asylum, Birmingham.\*

J.B.C., admitted November 25th, 1865. Aged 32. Single.—His mental derangement appears to date from a sunstroke which he had five months before in Florence, and he was in consequence detained at the Royal Asylum in that city. No mental defect had been noticed previous to this, nor was there any family history of insanity; he is said to have been steady in his habits.

On his admission he was in a state of great excitement, continually gesticulating, stamping his feet forcibly on the ground and swearing at the demoniacal beings which, he declared, swarmed in great numbers around him; he could not enter into rational conversation, was full of delusions, declaring that he was the heir to the Crown of Italy, the son of the Queen of England, and the owner of millions; his hands and tongue showed slight tremor, and speech was embarrassed. Pupils equal.

During the remaining 26 years of his life, he never ceased to entertain a multitude of varied delusions and hallucinations, sometimes exalted and pleasurable—chiefly of wealth and attainments; at other times depressing and annoying in nature, generally relating to the host of invisible demons which pestered him.

His temper was subject to phases of obstinate silence and tranquillity, alternating with outbursts of intense excitement and activity; sometimes paroxysms of ungovernable fury, in which he would pace the airing-court for hours, swearing in the obscenest of languages, rolling on the ground in the blindness of his passion, savagely attacking the attendants and medical officers, and on one occasion fracturing the arm of a patient. He destroyed everything he could lay his hands on, including his own clothing; he paid no attention to his person, and his habits were repulsive in the extreme.

Except for some trivial disorders, his health was very good until the last few months of his life. He never suffered from fits of any kind; latterly the tremor of hands and tongue increased in intensity, and he became emaciated and enfeebled. He finally succumbed to progressive cardiac mischief, having both aortic and mitral bruits.

*Post-Mortem Notes.*

Skull very hard and thick; dura mater presented a distended and bulging appearance, and was found to be intimately adherent to a thick, false membrane covering the whole surface of both hemispheres. This membrane was tough and leathery in con-

\* Paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Association, held at Birmingham, July 23, 1891. The preparation of the membranes was exhibited at the same time.

sistence, and contained large patches of calcification; the under surface of a yellowish-white colour, glistening in appearance and adherent to the pia. The membrane thinned gradually as it approached the base and towards the occipital convolutions, where it was represented by a punctate rusty discoloration of the inner layer of dura.

The convolutions were found flattened, and there was firm adhesion between the hemispheres and in the main fissures; the convolutions were obscured by marked thickening of the pia, which was not adherent to the subjacent gyri.

Cerebro-spinal fluid greatly in excess, and ventricles much enlarged. Grey matter showed little atrophic change. Brain substance firm. No granulations found.

Weights—R. Hemisphere	... ..	21 oz.
L. „	... ..	20 oz.
Cerebellum	... ..	7 oz.

Microscopic examination of the membrane revealed an *outer* dense stratum of fibrous tissue in longitudinally coursing fasciculi, between which were interspersed quantities of hæmatoidin crystals, fatty globules, and a mass of fine granular amorphous detritus; an *inner* layer of a few delicate laminæ of nucleated tissue, in which were numerous blood-vessels, separated from each other by lacunæ, containing hæmatoidin crystals.

## OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

### *The Jubilee of the Association.*

Fifty years ago the Association commenced with the promise of forty-four members. At the present time the number is just about ten-fold. A circular was sent to eighty-three medical men connected with asylums, and thirty-six did not respond to the proposal, while three declined. Among those who agreed to become members occur the well-known names of Sir A. Morison, Dr. Prichard, Dr. Conolly, Mr. Gaskell, Dr. Monro, Dr. Stewart, Dr. W. A. F. Browne, Dr. Hitch, Dr. Hutcheson, Dr. Shute, Dr. Davey, Dr. de Vitré, Dr. Charlesworth, Dr. Begley, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Poole, Dr. Kirkman, Dr. Corsellis, Dr. Thurnam, Dr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Hastings, Dr. Mackintosh, and Dr. McKinnon.

The following were the medical men who met together at the Gloucester Lunatic Asylum, July 27th, 1841, to consider the replies which had been received to the circular issued on the 19th of June, and who then and there resolved—“That an Association be formed of the Medical Officers attached to Hospitals for the Insane, whose object shall be the Improve-