

nervous centres, but also with the first principles of a sound psychology; it is established also beyond all possibility of question by the observation of actual cases of insanity.

*On the Functions of the Cerebellum.*

Dr. Davey has addressed the following letter to the editor of the 'Lancet' on the Functions of the Cerebellum:—

"In your review of Professor Owen's 'Comparative Anatomy and Physiology' I find it stated that his views are adverse to the existence of any relation between the cerebellum and the sexual instinct as maintained by Dr. Gall, but in favour of its more or less intimate connection with locomotive power. With reference to this point, perhaps some of your readers may be interested to know that at the meeting of the British Association at Bath, in 1864, Mr. Prideaux, a warm advocate of the general soundness of Gall's views as to the special functions of different portions of the brain, read a paper on the 'Functions of the Cerebellum,' in which he adduced evidence to show that the central and lateral lobes had separate functions; the median lobe, or vermiform process, being the great ganglion of the nerves of muscular resistance, giving a perception of the position of the body and its relation to gravity, and being constantly developed in the ratio of the animal's locomotive power and capacity for balancing the body during rapid motion; the lateral lobes being the great ganglion of the nerves of cutaneous sensibility, and always developed in proportion to the development of the cuticular system of nerves.

"These views were sought to be enforced by a comparison of the nervous system and physiological manifestations of birds, cetaceans, and bats. The cetaceans were illustrations of the extreme development of the cuticular system of nerves, and equally so of the lateral lobes of the cerebellum. In the porpoise the size of the cerebellum, compared with the cerebrum, was as 1 to 2½, this unusual bulk being due to the enormous development of the lateral lobes, which equalled in absolute size those of man.

"In birds the development of the cuticular system was at a minimum, and equally so that of the lateral lobes of the cerebellum, which were, in fact, quite rudimentary, and consisted almost entirely of the root of the fifth pair of nerves; whilst the development of the median lobe bore the closest relation to the powers of flight, being as 1 to 13 in the slow gray owl, 1 to 11 in the crow, 1 to 6 in the swift hawk, and 1 to 4 in the agile swallow. The bat combined the acute tactile sensibility of the cetaceans with the agility of the bird; and, in conformity, united the large lateral lobes of the former with the large median lobe of the latter. In the common pipistrelle the weight of the cerebellum was .96 of a grain to a cerebrum of 1.78, being in the proportion of 1 to 1.85.

"Gall's mistake in locating sexual feeling in the cerebellum Mr. Prideaux maintains to be rather an error of inference than observation, the convexity of the lower fossa of the occipital bone and their protrusion backwards and downwards being principally due to the development of the under surface of the posterior lobe of the cerebrum, in the same way as the prominence of the eye and pouching of the lower eyelid, indicative of philological talent, is caused by the development of certain convolutions of the under surface of the anterior lobe resting on the roof of the orbit. Gall's views on the functions of the cerebellum were greatly strengthened by several remarkable

cases of loss of sexual feeling occurring after sabre wounds of the cerebellum in French soldiers; and for these cases he was indebted to Baron Larrey. The juxtaposition of the parts, combined with the known effects of concussion of the cerebrum, render these symptoms perfectly compatible with the location of the sexual feeling on the under surface of the posterior lobe of the cerebrum."

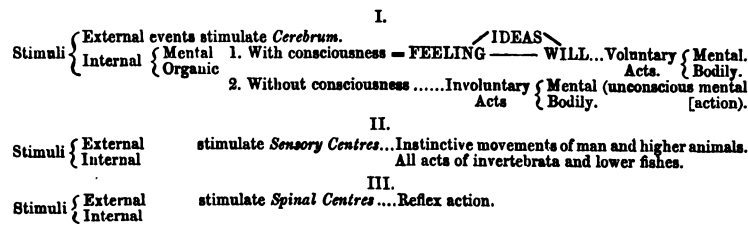
*Notes of Lectures on Insanity.* Delivered at St. George's Hospital, by GEORGE FIELDING BLANDFORD, M.B. Oxon.

('Medical Times and Gazette.')

Dr. Blandford, the Lecturer on Psychology in the Medical School of St. George's Hospital, is publishing his lectures in the 'Medical Times and Gazette.' Four lectures have already appeared. The first is introductory, and in it he briefly speaks of the physiology of that nerve-life and "brain-life which constitute the mind of man."

There are two methods of studying the human mind, says Dr. Blandford, and we presume he refers to the subjective and the inductive methods. The latter, he believes, is the only true method.

#### D I A G R A M.



This diagram is given to show "that the same thing happens in the lowest manifestation of nerve function as in the highest intellectual act of man; that each act is made up of a stimulus, a stimulated centre, and a resulting movement. No nerve action has less than this or more."

Dr. Blandford then proceeds to show how the functions of the three varieties of the cranio-spinal system are acted on by this theory, and concludes his remarks thus.

The stimulation of any centre may be excessive, disproportionate, exhausting. The centre itself may be disordered or disorganized by the stimulation, or through defect or disease it may be too much or too little stimulated. The conscious feeling aroused in the highest cerebral centres may be converted into an idea in no way adequate, which does not correspond to the feeling; or the idea, when stored up, may be wrongly joined to other ideas, making the whole train erroneous, a delusion; and so the will, basing its judgment on these