

thick, dense, and heavy; the dura mater thickened, fibrous, but not adherent to the calvarium; the pia-arachnoid opaque and oedematous; brain, there was a notable disproportion between the two sides; right hemisphere, simple convolitional pattern, congested, no wasting; left hemisphere, simple convolitional pattern, pale, general wasting; section, from the anterior to the posterior pole there was a well-marked cavity containing straw-coloured fluid which was not turbid. When the fluid was let out the cavity was smooth, there being a complete absence of the basal ganglia or any other vestige of brain matter. Lying across the floor of the cavity were remnants of the choroid plexus. There was an excess of cerebro-spinal fluid. The brain weighed 895 gm. Examination of the cerebellum, pons, and medulla showed nothing abnormal. No morbid changes calling for special note were found in any of the other viscera.

For permission to publish particulars of this case I am indebted to Dr. D. J. Williams, Medical Superintendent.

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*Some Notes on the Case and Post-mortem Examination of a Microcephalic Idiot—Absence of Corpus Callosum.* By G. N. BARTLETT, Medical Superintendent, Exeter City Asylum.

E. G—, a female, was admitted in October, 1904, æt. 14.

Her general development and stature were much below normal, her height being recorded as 4 ft. 6½ in., her weight 5 st. 2 lb., the circumference of the head 18 in., and the other cranial measurements as correspondingly small. Her vocabulary consisted of a few words and phrases and some bad language, and her speech was a very indistinct drawl. Her movements were clumsy, and her gait a shuffle but stable enough to allow her to knock another patient down. She had a double squint and was more than usually degenerate and repulsive in appearance, especially as facial contortions were common, and the mouth usually open and dribbling. She proved herself uneducable, even as regards her personal habits, and quite dependent, and in a short description her uncontrollable temper only need be mentioned; an exhibition of screaming, swearing, kicking, biting, scratching was forthcoming on the slightest provocation. Her habits were very dirty and destructive, and her table manners were repulsive.

In 1909, ulceration at the angle of the mouth was recorded and regarded as syphilitic, but there was no amelioration under prolonged treatment. She was always thin and anæmic, and subject to digestive troubles due mainly to her habit of bolting food. Suspicions of tuberculosis of the lungs and lesions of the spinal cord, aroused from time to time by her condition, were dispelled by negative examinations, and there was no apparent change in her movements and powers of

co-ordination up to the time of her death in October, 1917, at the age of 27.

The *post-mortem* examination revealed complete absence of the corpus callosum, a condition unsuspected during life, as in some other recorded cases of this rare abnormality. (I regret time prevents a study and paraphrase of the literature on this subject.)

Other conditions found were microgyria in the occipital and frontal regions of the brain, and internal hydrocephalus, the lateral ventricles being enlarged out of all proportion to the size of the hemispheres, and the grey and white matter much attenuated. The remarkable smallness of the brain and other organs is shown by the appended weights. The kidneys were lobulated, and there was broncho-pneumonia in both lungs.

	<i>Weights.</i>
Encephalon . . . . .	870 grm.
Right hemisphere . . . . .	380 "
Left hemisphere . . . . .	385 "
Cerebrum . . . . .	85 "
Pons and medulla . . . . .	20 "
Heart . . . . .	140 "
Right lung . . . . .	235 "
Left lung . . . . .	355 "
Liver . . . . .	640 "
Kidneys . . . . .	65 "

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### Occasional Note.

#### *Reform in Lunacy Law.*

At the November Meeting of the Parliamentary Committee it was resolved to form a sub-committee to consider the amendment of the existing Lunacy Laws. This sub-committee has since been formed, consisting of twelve members, including the chairman and secretary of the parent committee, who will also act in these respective offices for this sub-committee. It has already commenced its labours by a critical investigation of the important legal changes advocated in the Appendix of the Status Report, which report, as our readers are aware, was adopted by the Association at its Annual Meeting in July, 1914. It is now more than a quarter of a century since the last principal Lunacy Act came into operation, and although many amending measures have since been presented to Parliament, no further progress has been made. It is hoped that public attention has been awakened by the mental cases