

ciated with atrophy of the right lobe of the cerebellum. Dudley (2) reported a case of an old hæmorrhagic cavity with dense sclerous walls, implicating the corpus dentatum, accompanied by degeneration of the opposite olive. Grills (3) recently described a case of cerebral hemiatrophy with atrophy of the right side of the cerebellum. The left olivary body and anterior pyramid were about one-third that of the right. The cord was normal. The case most similar to the above, however, that the writer has had access to, is that reported by Bond (4). The condition was one of atrophy and sclerosis of the cerebellum. The naked-eye appearance, weight, and consistence were similar. The case was of long duration, the mental state also imbecility without epilepsy, and there was speech defect. The cells of the medulla, especially the olive, were small, degenerate, and of indistinct outline. It differed inasmuch as that the patient became ataxic, the meningitis was only slight, and there was some sclerosis of the pons.

The slight nature of the pathological changes in other parts of the central nervous system is noteworthy.

It would appear that compensation of function is comparatively easily obtained in cerebellar lesions, and that localising symptoms need only be expected if the lesion be recent or cause pressure effects.

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- (1) Major, *Journal of Mental Science*, July, 1879.
- (2) Dudley, *Journal of Mental Science*, July, 1886.
- (3) Grills, *British Medical Journal*, May 5th, 1906.
- (4) Bond, *Journal of Mental Science*, July, 1895.

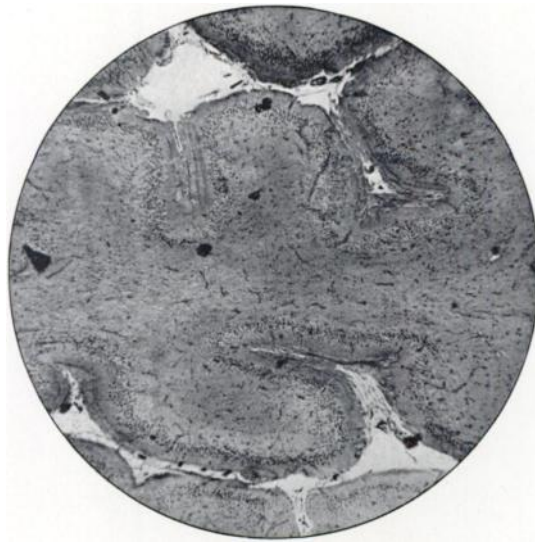
MICRO-PHOTOGRAPH.

Micro-photograph of section stained with hæmatoxylin. Note the meningitis and adhesion of the laminæ, the small number of cells in the outer and granular layers, the absence of Purkinje's cells, and the large amount of sclerosis.

Notes on a Case where a large number of Foreign Bodies were removed from the Vagina of a Chronic Insane Indian patient. By A. D. PRINGLE, M.B., Senior Assistant Medical Officer of the Natal Government Asylum, Maritzburg.

PATIENT P—, Indian female, æt. about 46, admitted April 5th, 1899, stated to have been insane eighteen months previous to her admission.

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To illustrate Dr. HARVEY BAIRD's paper.

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She had a child with her about one year old, and treated it kindly. Since her admission no husband or relative has taken any interest in her or her child, and one is led to the conclusion that her life had been a somewhat irregular one.

On admission she was acutely maniacal; she is now quarrelsome, abusive, and extremely dirty in her habits, fighting pretty frequently with other turbulent inmates.

At intervals she has gone out with the coloured female squad to do garden-weeding, etc., but appears to have given more moral (!) support than practical help. In April, 1905, she developed an abscess high up on the thigh in front; it was offensive and healed after the expiration of about three months.

In December, 1906, in spite of frequent bathing, it was noticed that a most offensive odour constantly hung about the patient. Slight vaginal discharge was seen, and orders were given for douching. After a few days the nurse in charge reported difficulty in inserting the nozzle of the douche, and a vaginal examination was made (December 28th). On separating the labia one could just see a piece of old spring wire projecting, much like a decayed pessary. It was removed, but it was quite evident there was something more to come. As item after item was brought out, one could not help being reminded of the miscellaneous collection seen in a watch-maker's or machinist's workshop.

The following is a list: Parts of three watch chains, eight metal washers, three dozen beads, five cogged watch-spring wheels, two iron nuts, two brass ornaments, twenty-eight thick brass finger-rings, two large silver ear-rings the size of a large walnut, two brooches, two brace-buckles, bowl of salt-spoon, steel spring, small bolt, bath-plug and part of chain, eleven buttons, one toy watch, two pennies, one half-penny, one tie-clip, pipecover, metal screwtop, metal cork, two large belt-buckles, buckle of rifle-sling, top of safety key to bath, piece of 1 in. square glass, parts of several iron screws, bolts, and miscellaneous pieces of rusted iron, beads, hooks-and-eyes, etc.

After about fifty washings the total scrap heap weighed seventeen ounces, and I calculate that the vagina must have contained nearly one and a half pounds of foreign matter.

The operation lasted almost an hour and a half, some of the articles being more or less firmly imbedded in the vaginal wall, which was fibrous and apparently papillated where parts of the mucous membrane had been pushed into the chinks and openings in the pieces of metal. No chloroform was given, although I am confident it would have been necessary in a sane woman, as some of the watch-wheels, buckles, etc., were removed with much difficulty. Every ten minutes the douche (potassium permanganate solution) was inserted to wash away the *débris*, and an offensive, black, slimy liquid that oozed out in the intervals between douching. Most of the articles were in the posterior fornix (towards Douglas's pouch), which had stretched to form a large *cul-de-sac*. No bleeding took place, neither were there any fissures communicating with the bladder or rectum. How the last escaped is a marvel, since the wall between the rectum and vagina was much thinned out, and many sharp pieces of glass, wire, and metal were removed.

For four days after this the discharge still continued to be black and

offensive, evidently remains of *débris*. Pulse and temperature remained normal throughout.

The patient is now well, but much annoyed at losing her "hidden treasure," and not having opportunity for further collection resorts to secreting bread in the same place when she is not watched.

Looking through the *Journal of Mental Science* for the last sixteen years I can find no trace of any other cases excepting one recorded in July, 1895, by Dr. Russell Strapp (now practising in Maritzburg) while assistant medical officer at the Inverness District Asylum. In this instance a female patient had inserted a candle extinguisher and a small round brass ball. All asylum physicians are aware of the anæsthesia found in the insane; I have no doubt, however, that most of my readers, if they saw the collection, would wonder how the patient could possibly have retained such a quantity of miscellaneous articles without incurring any fissure or internal septic complication of some kind. The case naturally suggests sexual perversion, but although the patient had apparently led a vagrant life before admission, nothing has been noted by the attendants in charge beyond the secretion of foreign bodies. However, it is difficult to trace matters among the insane coloured inmates. One other factor may have been "hoarding up of rubbish and brightly coloured objects," common in asylums.

When the coloured patients are bathed, usually all rubbish is taken away; it is therefore possible that this patient may have secreted these articles in her vagina for greater security.

Occasional Notes.

The Thaw Trial.

The Thaw trial so strikingly demonstrates the existence of defects in the conduct of judicial inquiries, some of which directly affect alienists, that some comment on them is not out of place in the pages of this Journal. These defects, although more prominent in the American, can be seen in lesser degree in English courts.

The most disgraceful defect is the prolongation of the trial