

2nd.—That it will not be found to occur until after middle life.

3rd.—That the first pathological change is exudation into the walls of the blood vessels, and the formation of fat.

4th.—That the fat cells and granules become mingled with calcareous amorphous salts.

5th.—That the diminution of the calibre and elasticity of the large blood vessels causes a slow circulation and increase of venous blood in the cranium, which is followed by dropsical effusion, either upon the surface or into the ventricles.

6th.—That thickening or adhesion of the membranes is owing to some primary inflammatory action at the commencement of the dropsical effusion.

7th.—That the mental derangement and epileptic seizures are caused by the effusion and abnormal circulation.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

The New Chancery Visitor in Lunacy.

It will be known to all the members of the Medico-Psychological Association that the Lord Chancellor has appointed Dr. Lockhart Robertson to succeed the late Sir C. Hood, as Chancery Visitor of Lunatics. We are glad to express in these columns our sincere gratification at Dr. Robertson's appointment, and to believe that we may, on the part of the members of the Association, offer him hearty congratulations, and wish him health and strength long to enjoy the honour which he has so well earned by his continued efforts to promote the advancement of medical psychology, and by his labours as a successful asylum administrator. The writer of these lines, while thus giving utterance to the general feeling, cannot forbear the expression of a deep sense of personal loss in being deprived of the valuable co-operation of one with whom he has been so long associated in editorial work. It is a matter of deep regret to him that the responsible official duties now devolving upon Dr. Robertson are incompatible with his continued superintendence of the "Journal of Mental Science."

Eight years have passed since Dr. Robertson, in accordance with the unanimous vote of the Association, assumed the conduct of its Journal, and for seven years before that date he had zealously served its interests as general secretary. For fifteen years, therefore, he has laboured hard to promote the prosperity of the Association, and the larger interests of psychological medicine. Next to Dr. Bucknill, with whom he worked so cordially as an officer of the Association, and as an able coadjutor in the Journal, and with whom it will now be his special happiness to work again as a colleague, there is no one to whom the Association is so much indebted as to him for its present position of usefulness and success.

It will not be unfitting to quote now the following remarks by Dr. Robertson on assuming the management of the Journal in 1862:—

Nine years have elapsed since the first number of the Journal appeared. It may not be uninteresting on the present occasion to look back on the work which during these years this Journal has accomplished. The year 1852 found the Association few in numbers, of limited funds and less influence. The Annual Meetings had almost fallen into abeyance, and the objects of the Association, in the improvement of asylum management, the diffusion of the knowledge of the treatment of mental disease, and the promotion of free communication on these subjects between its members, were alike unfulfilled. The Association was but a dim name, and of its existence even many members of the department, including the present writer, were ignorant.

The 15th of November, 1853, the first number of the Asylum Journal appeared. Some of the readers of this note will remember its unpretending bi-quarterly form. In October, 1855, it assumed its quarterly form, and in April, 1861, it was transferred from a provincial printer to an excellent London establishment. Forty-two numbers in all have been published. Dr. Robertson ventures to say that the thought and tone of the articles contributed in this period have materially raised the position of English psychological medicine both at home and abroad.

With the issue of the Journal the Association rose into new life. With one or two exceptions, whose absence Dr. Robertson personally regrets as that of men whose work he has learnt to know and value, all the medical officers of the public asylums in England, Ireland, and Scotland have joined our ranks, which had further added to them every physician of any character or pretensions engaged in the private practice of this department of medicine. It is superfluous to point out the increased influence which such an extension of our members has given to the Association.

Since these words were written, the number of members of the Association has continued steadily to increase, and if the increase goes on at the same rate for two or three years more, it will be double what it was at that time. The Association now includes, too, in its ranks many who are distinguished in general medicine, and might, were its membership not restricted to legally qualified practitioners, soon include many who, though not medical men, are earnestly interested in the application of mental science to great social questions. The circulation of the Journal also outside the Association has largely increased, both in this country and abroad, so that it has been necessary twice during the last year to increase the number of copies printed. These facts are a better testimony than any words of praise to the energy which Dr. Robertson has applied to advance the usefulness of the Association, and to maintain the reputation of the Journal, and to the success which has attended his exertions.

While thus giving cordial expression to our appreciation of his valuable services to the Association during a period of fifteen years, we trust that, using the words of Dr. Conolly on the occasion of Dr. Bucknill's promotion to the same office, *he will not cease to take an interest in whatever relates to psychological science and its application to medical treatment, and that he may long enjoy his increased opportunities of promoting the welfare and the protection of the insane, and the real interests of the medical profession in relation to insanity, which are inseparably connected with the real advantages of the community.*

The "Pall Mall Gazette" on the Non-Restraint System.

In the number of this Journal for October, 1869, we noticed an article in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the real, if not overt, aim of which appeared to be to throw discredit on the non-restraint system. Moved to a righteous anger by the recent death from broken ribs of a patient at the Hanwell Asylum, of another at the Lancaster Asylum, and of another at the Joint Counties' Asylum, Carmarthen, the *Gazette* has returned to the subject, and seems now to make no concealment of its desire to see restored that system of mechanical restraint which it has been the honour of English asylums to have abolished. We deeply regret that the policy of so ably conducted a journal has not been inspired by better counsel