

capable of doing. He had obtained satisfactory evidence that the granular corpuscles that were to be observed in the neighbourhood of areas of softening in the central nervous system were derived from these mesoglia cells.

Dr. CLOUSTON said that he was sure they agreed with him in congratulating Dr. Ford Robertson on this brilliant discovery, and that he would trace out the pathology of those cells as he had shown them their histology.

Dr. EASTERBROOK read a paper on "An Attack of Epilepsy (*Status Epilepticus*) followed within six weeks by an Attack of Chorea, occurring in a patient suffering from Acute Puerperal Insanity" (see page 114).

Dr. URQUHART showed, and made observations upon, a number of forms for case-taking, etc., which had been prepared by Dr. Toulouse for use in the Villejuif Asylum.

Dr. YELLOWLEES moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Spence for his conduct in the chair, and conveyed to him the great gratification and honour which the Division felt in having the President with them on that occasion.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

STATE INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES.—October 23rd, 1899.

Mr. PICKERSGILL asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to the observations of the learned Chairman of the County of London Sessions on the 18th inst., in passing sentence on Joanna Driscoll, that there was no State inebriate reformatory in existence to which he could order her to be sent, as contemplated by the Inebriates Act; whether, seeing that a man who had previously been convicted seven times in twelve months was sentenced at the recent Lancaster Quarter Sessions to three years' detention in an inebriates' reformatory, but the Home Office had informed the Governor of Lancaster Castle that there was no reformatory for such inebriates, he would state what course did he propose to take with regard to this prisoner, and whether temporary arrangements had been made for the use of a portion of one of Her Majesty's prisons for a State inebriate reformatory as stated in the report of the Departmental Committee, dated 12th December last, and if not, would he be good enough to state what steps he had taken to give effect to the intention of Parliament?

Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY.—I have seen a newspaper report of the case at the London Quarter Sessions, and I am making inquiry as to the circumstances. I may say that *prima facie* the accused seems to be as well qualified for committal to a certified reformatory—of which there are now several in existence—as to a State reformatory. As regards the case at the Lancaster Quarter Sessions, I am also making inquiry, as the circumstances of the committal are not clear. I may add that there will be at least one certified reformatory ready for the reception of male inebriates in a very short time. I have abandoned the project of adapting a portion of one of Her Majesty's prisons for use as a temporary State reformatory. My reasons for so doing, as well as for hesitating to establish a permanent State reformatory, are given fully in a circular which I issued last January to Her Majesty's judges, and of which I have directed a copy to be sent to the hon. member. I will say here that subsequent experience has justified and confirmed that hesitation.

RECENT MEDICO-LEGAL CASES.

REPORTED BY DR. MERCIER.

[The editors request that members will oblige by sending full newspaper reports of all cases of interest as published by the local press at the time of the assizes.]

Reg. v. White.

Frederick White, police constable, was indicted for shop-breaking. He was seen on more than one occasion to ransack shops at night, and when his house was