

a similar condition to the dura mater, and the pia mater was engorged with blood and much thickened. It was adherent to one or two points of the brain at the vertex, but at the base it was so adherent that it could not be stripped off without lacerating the brain substance. This was especially noticeable on the floor of the fourth ventricle. The pia mater of the cerebellum was likewise very adherent and more congested and thickened than any other part. Both large and small vessels were atheromatous. The brain was small, weighing $42\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, and the convolutions atrophied. It was soft in consistence, and readily lacerated by examination. The grey matter was reduced in depth, and there were many puncta on the cut surface. The lateral ventricles were distended to a slight extent, and their walls were lined by a layer of colloid-looking substance. There were two cysts, about the size of filberts, on the right choroid plexus.

The total encephalon weighed $44\frac{1}{2}$ ounces; right hemisphere, 18 ounces; left hemisphere, $18\frac{1}{2}$ ounces; pons and medulla, one ounce; cerebellum, five ounces.

Both lungs were much congested, and there were a few calcareous nodules in the apex of the left one. Heart small; walls thin and friable; no valvular lesion. A few calcareous scales were on the aortic cusps, and on the ascending part of the arch of the aorta. There was a large hæmorrhagic infarction of the spleen.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

Assistant Medical Officers.

We are glad that the last quarterly meeting of the Association was marked by the introduction of a paper on the status and prospects of the Assistant Medical Officers of Asylums for the Insane. This communication, contributed by three physicians holding office in asylums at the present time, will be found in the current number of the Journal, and will repay careful perusal. The fairness and moderation of the style in which it is written ought to commend it to our readers. That it was received by the meeting in an appreciative spirit will be evident to those who read the discussion, given in "Notes and News," which followed. It cannot be denied that there is much to discourage this class of medical officers, and to prevent, therefore, young physicians of high standing entering into this field of labour. To our certain knowledge there are

assistant medical officers in county asylums thoroughly interested in their work, and engaged in scientific observations, who are obliged against their will and tastes to contemplate resignation, and engaging in general practice. That they will carry with them a large amount of special knowledge eminently useful to them in their profession is very true. This, however, does not lessen the loss to the department of medicine in which they were likely to make fresh discoveries in the therapeutics and pathology of insanity. It would indicate a lamentable apathy on the part of men who perform their duties during many years for a salary the limits of which they have reached, and which, if the rules of the institution permitted, would not enable them to marry, if they did not speak out and combine for the purpose of improving the material condition of their class. The question for the Association to consider is whether it can promote the interests of assistant medical officers by any definite mode of action. We trust that the subject will be carefully considered by the members prior to the Spring meeting in Manchester, and that the meeting may then be in a position to pass some resolution calculated to secure the objects in view.



Proposed Hospital for the Insane of London.

At the usual weekly meeting of the London County Council, at the Guildhall, on November 5th, 1889, the Earl of Rosebery presiding, Mr. Brudenell Carter as Chairman of a Committee on a hospital for the insane, submitted the following report, which was agreed to by the Council:—

“Your Committee were instructed to inquire into, and to report to the Council upon, the advantages which might be expected from the establishment, as a complement to the existing asylum system, of a hospital with a visiting medical staff, for the study and curative treatment of insanity.

“Your Committee have now concluded their inquiries with regard to the question submitted to them.

“Your Committee have arrived at the conclusion that a hospital of the kind described would be likely materially to increase the present knowledge of the nature and causes of insanity, and therefore ultimately to increase the means avail-