

Observations.—It is of interest that the two prominent physical symptoms, tremor, and speech disturbance, combined with excited reflexes, were the same in this as in the preceding case, and that in the two cases there was intra-cranial and intra-spinal pressure due to entirely different causes. How far the pressure caused these symptoms is a matter of some speculation. The special sense and local symptoms were, of course, accounted for by the individual conditions involved in each case, as well as the epileptiform seizures which were manifest. The early dementia in the one case and the late exalted delusions in the other afford also an interesting contrast of psychical disturbances from association with organic disease.

And in view of such grave morbid changes and growth—in themselves beyond the reach of physicians' or surgeons' skill—it must strike one how absurd it is to level charges of non-progress in the successful treatment of mental disease, which experience shows is so often merely associated as a symptom with organic and incurable disease. Many such cases are no doubt recorded as cases of "epileptic insanity," and as such swell the bulk of a class for which curative treatment is sought in vain. The epilepsy and the insanity are but the concomitant symptoms of gross disease of the great nervous system.

In Case 8 the psychical condition was one of gradual stupor, following on the acute mental failure ushered in by a fit; in Case 9 the acute mental failure, marked by recurring fits, was of an hallucinatory type, and the stupor, so often stated to be one of the chief clinical symptoms of brain tumour, was never in evidence until it followed the group of fits which immediately preceded her death.

Occasional Notes.

Delayed Lunacy Legislation.

The prospect of lunacy legislation in the present Session is almost hopeless, but the "deferred hope" should not have the saddening effect on this Association which is usually supposed to result from such an emotional state.

Ten years ago the then Lord Chancellor introduced a Bill, which, with slight modifications, has been reproduced annually since, and still it is not law. The slow process of recognition of public needs that characterises our legal administration makes it certain that several years of effort must have elapsed before a Lord Chancellor could have been moved to attempt legislation, and his action is proof positive of the need having been both urgent and imperative.

Legislation that is of the utmost importance to a large body of suffering humanity has therefore been deferred for some fourteen years, and many can remember that the previous Lunacy Act took fourteen years to pass.

The reason for this protracted delay and neglect of matters most important to the social welfare of the country is not far to seek. The party strife and bickerings in the House of Commons, occupying the major part of the time, and even more of the interests of its members, are responsible. That such delay and neglect should be possible in a country that prides itself on its common sense and practicality is certainly monstrous. There must assuredly be something "rotten in the State" that admits of such scandalous and cynically callous indifference to social welfare.

The Medico-Psychological Association is to a very large extent the representative as well as the custodian of the welfare of the insane in this country. Are its members fulfilling the duties of this position in tamely submitting, year after year, to this neglect of the helpless class for whom they are responsible? Can they take no action to right this wrong?

Many of the legislative reforms needed for the care of the insane have been already endorsed by a Royal Commission, so that the neglect to carry them out is a direct affront to the Crown, by whose authority such Commissions are appointed. This affront is none the less real because it has unfortunately become the habit of Parliament to neglect and over-ride the findings of such Commissions. This, however, is an additional reason for effort, and suggests that the most effective line would be to urge the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the reasons of the incompetence of the House of Commons in fulfilling its functions.

Many other interests in the country are suffering as lunacy is suffering, and the action of this Association would very

probably be imitated by the aggrieved interests. Such an inquiry might possibly lead to some amelioration of the excess of party spirit, which for many years past has been growing in intensity, and threatens as the years roll on to become more potent and dangerous.

Spiritual or Faith Healing in Connection with the Church of England.

The fact that the Central Council of the British Medical Association has appointed a Committee of Inquiry on the above subject, after an approach to the Bishop of London, is a matter for sincere satisfaction.

In the report on the progress of psychiatry in America, in the April number of this Journal, the evils resulting from the "Experiment on Practical Religion," in connection with the Emmanuel Church at Boston, were described. They give a very unhopeful view of the practical results of such treatment by untrained minds.

The beneficial results arising from the substitution of faith and hope in place of doubt and dread have been known in all ages, and have been demonstrated by a never-ending succession of quacks and excitements, religious and otherwise. They in many instances act either by inducing a state of emotional exaltation or by some degree of induced stupor, rendering the person more suggestible—conditions that cannot be considered wholly favourable to mental health, and which, indeed, often leave an unsatisfactory mental impress.

It is unfortunately too often forgotten that faith and hope may also be induced by reason and knowledge, and that the cures thus effected are much more satisfactory than those effected through emotionalism and stupor.

The process of convincing many of the hysterical and hypochondriacal type of persons for whom this mode of treatment is especially demanded requires much more time, energy and patience than many physicians are prepared to give, even if they recognise the presence of the condition demanding it. Hence it is that in many cases in which the disorder is protracted the patients have recourse to procedures that give them relief, and the quack scores, from the inadequacy of the qualified physician.