

Cases contributed by S. A. K. STRAHAN, M.D., Assistant Medical Officer, Northampton County Asylum.

### I.

#### *Acute Mania in a Boy of Thirteen Years.*

Acute mania in the young—before the period of pubescence—is sufficiently rare to invest the following case with some interest:—

Alfred P., aged 13, an agricultural labourer, was admitted on Feb. 26th, 1883, with the following history:—Mother and a brother have been insane and confined in an asylum. About three weeks ago patient seemed “strange,” and complained of wandering pains in limbs; he stayed from his work in consequence for a fortnight, and then appearing better he returned, but in five days again gave up work, complaining of giddiness and left frontal headache. On the next day he was incoherent and violent.

On admission to the asylum he was described as a boy of average development for 13 years. Hair brown, eyes blue, pupils unequal—left dilated. Testes have not descended to scrotum. He tumbles about the bed with his knees at his chin, holds his mouth full of saliva, which is beaten to froth from his churning it through his teeth. If anyone attracts his attention he becomes stationary for a time, and uses all his energy in cursing the new-comer and using obscene language. His obscene vocabulary was limited, but that of condemnation was varied and vigorously applied.

He was kept in bed for the first few days, and did not improve much. After a saline purge he ate well of milk and other slops, but refused solids.

On the third day he became more restless and would not remain in bed, and the weather being cold he was clothed and got up. At this time he was lively and incoherent, would do nothing required of him, and described himself as being “damned well.” The pupils were now equal, and the right shoulder was noticed somewhat lower than the left. There was no facial paralysis, and he walked smartly. Next day the “sinking” of shoulder was gone, and he was quieter and more tractable.

On the twelfth day he relapsed and became almost as on admission. Three days later he again improved, and became coherent and well-mannered.

From this time he continued to improve, and on the thirty-fourth day was sent to work in the garden, where he soon turned out to be an intelligent little fellow and a capital workman.

A few weeks later, he being much improved bodily, and apparently well mentally, he was discharged recovered on the eightieth day from the time of his admission.