1898.]

Occasional Notes of the Quarter.

The British Medical Association.

The annual meeting of the British Medical Association was held in Edinburgh in the week succeeding the Medico-Psychological meeting. The meeting was one of the most successful that the B.M.A. has ever held, whether as to numbers of members attending or as to the quantity and importance of the matter discussed. Edinburgh possesses many advantages as a place of meeting. The fame of its great medical school is world-wide, and it is full of ardent workers who are determined to maintain and extend its ancient renown as a centre of medical teaching. The social amenity and the accessibility of the northern capital render it specially attractive to the southron.

Elsewhere we summarise the work done in the psychology section. Much interesting work was done in the section of neurology. A discussion of the treatment of cerebral tumours was introduced by Professor Ferrier; a discussion on the influence of micro-organisms and toxins in the production of diseases of the central and peripheral nervous system was introduced by Dr. Buzzard. Both subjects were very fully discussed.

The meeting of 1898 witnessed also the birth of some new sections. Notable among these is the section of tropical diseases, a class of affections hitherto strangely neglected in England, although so much of our mighty empire lies within the tropics. Many tropical diseases have points of special interest for the neurologist and the alienist, while the labours of Dr. McDowall have familiarised us with the feeling that the ever-present problem of the care of the insane is as pressing in the tropical as in temperate climes.

The Correlation of Sciences in the Investigation of Nervous and Mental Diseases.

In the present number we publish an interesting article by Dr. Ira Van Giesen, Superintendent of the Pathological Institute of the Commission in Lunacy of the State of New York, upon the above subject. The necessity for a manysided, comprehensive study of insanity is earnestly represented by Dr. Van Giesen. It is very much to the credit of the New York State Lunacy Commission that it has recognised the importance of the collaboration of skilled workers in various

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