

Riding Asylum Reports. He exhibited a guinea-pig, which had been made epileptic by section of the sciatic nerve. A fit could be induced by nipping the animal's cheek, but after a subcutaneous injection of chloral the fit could no longer be induced in this manner.

He gave the instance of an imbecile girl who had fallen into the status epilepticus, was unable to swallow, and seemed to be in imminent danger, but who was saved by the administration of chloral by injection. He thinks that giving it at bedtime has got a good influence in preventing nocturnal attacks, and quotes the statistics of Testut as to the benefits derived from its use in eclampsia parturientium. Of 55 patients who have taken chloral in this affection, only four died, *i.e.*, 7·4 per cent., but where other remedial means had been used there was a mortality of 29 per cent. Of 29 patients who got the chloral alone, only one died, *i.e.*, 3·4 per cent.; while in those cases in which it was used, after other medicines had been employed, there was a mortality of 9 per cent.; and where chloral was used along with other drugs the death-rate was 13·3 per cent.

It would thus seem that chloral had better be used alone. Where anaesthetics were used the mortality was 19·4 per cent.; where bleeding was used the mortality was 35 per cent.; and where drastic purgatives were used the mortality was 56 per cent. Testut begins with a dose of 4 grammes, and follows it up by smaller doses where they appear needful.

Krueg has two patients affected with general paralysis who have symptoms from which a watchful attendant can indicate the approach of an epileptic seizure. When they tell him of these symptoms, and he finds the pulse to become quicker, he gives a dose of chloral, on which sleep, but no epileptic attack, follows. When the administration of chloral is neglected after these premonitory symptoms the fit is sure to follow. He affirms from statistics that chloral is the best remedy for tetanus. Dr. Krueg sometimes gives chloral by subcutaneous injection. This requires a larger syringe than usual. He takes two grammes of the salt to ten of water, and with this makes four injections. In injecting this large quantity of water care must be taken not to do it too fast.

3. *French Retrospect.*

"Archives de Neurologie, Revue Trimestrielle des Maladies Nerveuses et Mentales" publiée sous la direction, de J. M. Charcot. Paris, 1880.

"L'Encephale, Journal des Maladies Mentales et Nerveuses." Paris, 1881.

The remarkable interest felt in the study of neurology is evidenced by the foundation of these journals.

The untiring energy of M. Charcot will doubtless give its impress to the journal which appears under his name, assisted by M. Bourneville. M. Charcot states, in his introduction, that the special character of the Archives will be the admission of papers tending specially to establish the intimate relations between nervous pathology and the other parts of medicine.

We wish the journal every success.

A glance at the contents of the first number of "L'Encéphale," together with an indication of the names of its conductors, will enable our readers to apprehend its scope, and to accept the guarantee that it does not unreasonably assume a want which it is not prepared to meet efficiently. To these ends, it may suffice to state that the literary staff of "L'Encéphale" includes the names of Dr. Ball, Professor of Mental Pathology, and Dr. Luys, physician to the Salpêtrière, with the editorial assistance of Dr. Ernest Chambard, to all of whom the pathology of the brain and spinal cord has long been indebted for valuable contributions.

The editors claim for the new journal three characteristics, viz., impartiality, with a practical and a sceptical spirit. Under the last named feature is signified, "not the vulgar irony which opposes, without distinction, all new ideas," but the scientific spirit which accepts facts, ideas, and hypotheses only after discussion and proof, seeking truth alone.

A prominent place is to be given in "L'Encéphale," to therapeutics of nervous diseases, more especially of the insane. The journal will comprise original communications, lectures, essays on medico-legal medicine, in relation to mental alienation, clinical observations, reviews, bibliography, and records of the proceedings of learned societies.

The journal opens with a contribution by Dr. Ball, on "Functional Cerebral Ischæmia," which relates, as examples of the condition, cases of sudden mutism induced, in the writer's opinion, by spasm or cramp of certain arteries of the brain.

Dr. Ball also follows with a description of a rare, peculiar, and very inconvenient nervous affection, which he designates *Impulsion Intellectuelle*. The subject of this nervous affection, despite the utmost exertion of self control, is compelled to the ejaculation of words or sentences without any power to prevent these utterances. A case is related in which a young woman, aged eighteen years, having been trained in a convent to an exaggerated piety, passed into a state of exalted mysticism, and in all places and at all times would constantly utter the words *Jesus ! Marie ! Joseph !* The public attention thereby excited led to her being considered a lunatic ; nevertheless she had no other delirium, while the absurdity and incongruity of the act was as evident to herself as to others, she had no power to restrain the exclamation. In another instance, a boy, aged fifteen

years, acquired some fancy of the mysterious nature of the numeral thirteen—the word *treize* was incessantly passing through his mind, but did not go beyond the mental conception. Through this incessant mental act he was disabled from pursuing his studies, although he presented no other intellectual disturbance.

We have ourselves a patient, a lady over fifty years of age, who for several years past interlards her conversation with a similar delirious ejaculation, “Oh! dear me! Oh! dear me!” She has no power whatever to check her utterance.

Dr. Regis relates several cases of unilateral hallucination, and traces a clinical and pathological relationship between these and unilateral morbid conditions of the organs of the senses on their nervous centres; treatment directed to these having in many cases caused the disappearance of the illusions.

Dr. J. Luys contributes to the study of cerebral morphology, an elaborate paper (with illustrative drawings) upon the histology and morphology of idiocy. Dr. Luys also describes a process which he adopts for the mummification of the brain, or its preservation in a dry state.

Dr. Chambard relates a case of primary epithelial cancer of the pia mater.

In the remaining departments of “L’Encéphale,” it is but scant justice to say that the editors have afforded some guarantee for a realization of the attributes that they have claimed for the journal; certainly the first number is eminently practical in character.

“Leçons sur les Maladies Mentales” par B. Ball, Professeur à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris.

Prof. Ball states that the object of these *Leçons* is to furnish young physicians with a general view of the subject of which they treat, and to enable them to avoid errors, so much the more deplorable inasmuch as they involve the most serious consequences, and to facilitate the first steps of the curriculum to those who feel naturally drawn to studies of this description.

The opening lecture, entitled “La Médecine Mentale à travers les Siècles,” is a rapid but very instructive sketch. The speaker does not spare the old French school of Mental Alienation. This lecture is printed in a separate form.

These *Leçons* are marked by the ability which characterise all the writings of the accomplished Professor.