

victim is on the point of falling into the hands of the factions. We may have a frightful scandal. It seems that with twenty or thirty thousand francs, which M. Conneau would see about, everything might be arranged. Besides this there has been a great wrong, which it is necessary to repair. *Mille compliments.* PERSIGNY.'"

Fractured Ribs in Insane Patients.

In addition to Dr. Hearder's paper on this subject, and to the article by Dr. Ormerod, which is reprinted from the "St. Bartholomew Hospital Reports," we may direct attention to a contribution to the "Liverpool Medical and Surgical Reports," vol. iv., by Dr. Rogers, the medical superintendent of the Rainhill Asylum.

Dr. Rogers has availed himself of the assistance of Dr. Campbell Brown, the lecturer on chemistry and toxicology at the Liverpool School of Medicine, to obtain a chemical analysis of the ribs of general paralytics. The result went to prove—

That the ratio of Organic constituents to Earthy matter is much greater, while the ratio of lime to phosphoric acid is distinctly less, in the ribs of paralytics than in those of healthy adults. There are the same differences between the composition of healthy ribs and those of paralytics as between the composition of the adult large bones and those of the fetus. And, generally, the composition in cases of paralysis approaches that observed in cases of osteo-malacia.

The result of the analysis is, as Dr. Rogers remarks, suggestive rather than conclusive, but it is to be hoped that it will lead to further enquiries in the same direction.

The question has been asked me—Why do these cases of fractured ribs never occur in General Hospitals? It is not difficult to answer. Patients in General Hospitals know that they are ill and weak, and take care of themselves accordingly; if by any chance they meet with an accident, they can describe it; if they are unruly or quarrelsome they are turned out; but patients in Asylums seldom realise how ill and weak they are, and therefore do not take care of themselves; their sensibility to pain is generally deadened, and therefore they do not complain; and the weakest and most exhausted are often the most quarrelsome.

But taking into consideration the number of lunatics who are

massed together in our County Asylums, the violent and unrestrained habits, accompanied by extreme muscular weakness, of many, the low vital energy of nearly all, and the probably increased fragility of the bones in some cases, it is almost a marvel that more accidents do not occur.

Statistics of Insanity.

In the last Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy for England we are glad to see the following remarks with regard to the tables suggested by the Medico-Psychological Association :—

Regarding the system of registering the facts of insanity at present pursued in the county and borough asylums, and in the lunatic hospitals in England and Wales, we have satisfaction in stating that the tables suggested by the Medico-Psychological Association, and recommended for that purpose in our Report of 1868, are now in use in 36 asylums, and also in the criminal asylum at Broadmoor; as well as, partially, in four more; and the superintendents of five asylums in which the tables have not been used, have expressed their intention or willingness to employ them in future. They have not been, nor have any intention been expressed that they will be, adopted in the asylums at Hanwell, Lancaster, and Stafford. We have on previous occasions intimated our opinion that, for the purpose of obtaining correct records of insanity, and for facilitating statistical comparison, it is most important that a uniform system of registration should be employed. We trust that the visitors of the asylums last referred to will assist the endeavours of the Commissioners to attain their object by adopting the tables recommended by them.

PART II.—REVIEWS.

The Prophetic Spirit in its Relation to Wisdom and Madness.
By the Rev. AUGUSTUS CLISSOLD, M.A. London: Longman & Co., 1870. pp. 326.

“Science,” says the author of this book, “is everywhere invading the province of revelation; the material is everywhere superseding the immaterial; the natural the supernatural. This is particularly the case with the school of medico-psychology. Certainly, the present course of human