

in front by the parotid, which was not affected as far as one could judge, and internally by the rectus lateralis and the internal jugular vein. No bare bone could be felt in any direction, nor could any be found in front of the mastoid by a probe. It appeared as if the abscess had arisen beneath the mastoid process, but from what source was not at all clear. The discharge from the ear points to the front of this process as the original seat of disease, and it was about this region that the greatest tenderness was at first experienced. There was no deafness resulting, and the mischief was apparently external to the position of the *membrana tympani*.

We have had several cases recently in Bethlem Hospital, in which mental symptoms have abated on the onset of acute maladies, or painful affections, especially when these have implicated cranial nerves. We also had a woman suffering from violent puerperal mania who recovered almost instantaneously on the opening of symmetrical abscesses in the calves. In the case now reported the interest is in the seat of the disease, and its near relation to the brain. We cannot say whether there was distinct propagation of inflammation to the brain, or, what is more probable, if there was merely some conducted disease along a cranial nerve.—*Lancet*, April 28th, 1877.

The Poet Keats.

London Hospital Medical Society.

At a meeting of the London Hospital Medical Society, held on January 10, 1879, at the house of Mr. Hutchinson, Cavendish Square, a very able and interesting paper was read by the host on the medical poet, Keats, which was followed by a lively discussion. The Poet's chief composition, "Endymion," was of course discussed by the essayist, who made various discriminative remarks upon its meaning. The question might have been asked whether Keats himself caught the psychological belief hidden in the ancient myth upon which this remarkable work of genius is founded? As no reference was made to this aspect of the question, we may say that Keats makes no allusion to the idea which we suggest underlies the fable. We beg to supply the omission. Every one knows that the Greeks regarded Selene as the cause of madness. It was under this influence Endymion

fell. The form of his un wisdom for which he suffered need not be a matter for conjecture. Young and ardent he had gained a giddy height. Ambition beckoned him thither. Success turned his head. The kiss of Selene shadowed forth his fate. The Premier has made in his eulogy on the death of the Princess Alice the expression "the kiss of death," a familiar phrase; and a physician, whose modesty does not permit us to mention his name, contributes some lines entitled "The Kiss of Madness," suggested by the story of Endymion:—

Beware, ambitious youth, lest thou be found
 Sleeping, unguarded, on enchanted ground,
 Else thine the fate which mythic poets tell,
 A beauteous youth, one moonlight night, befell,
 Who clomb Mount Latmos—symbol fit of fame,
 A niche to find, whereon to carve his name.
 The summit gained, his wearied limbs he threw
 Upon the ground, Heaven's radiant Queen in view.
 He slept, so soundly slept, how should he tell
 Selene o'er his being cast her spell,
 And fir'd with jealous love within her breast,
 The Kiss of Madness on his brow imprest?
 Thus did the Goddess of the silver ray,
 And moon-struck, in her power, Endymion lay.

Judging from the host's love of poetry, it is more than possible that he sometimes woos the Muse himself, when in his charming hebdominal retreat among the woods and glades of Haslemere he escapes from the arduous duties of his profession. If so, we are sure we are only expressing a sentiment which would be shared by all who had the pleasure of being present on the occasion which has called forth these remarks, when we say that nothing would be more delightful to his auditors than to re-assemble at no distant day, under the same hospitable roof, to hear Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson recite his own compositions with the same dramatic power as he recited those of John Keats.

Statistics and Causes of Suicide of India. By Surgeon-Major
 KENNETH M'LEOD, M.A., M.D.

We have received a very interesting and able paper on the above subjects, read by the author (formerly a member of the Medico-Psychological Association) at a meeting of the Bengal Social Science Association, on the 13th of June last.