

contains, on an average, about 800 patients of both sexes, and Dr. Miraglia, the superintendent and editor of the *Annali*, seems to be occupied, like almost every other superintendent, in designing plans for the erection of a new asylum for women, and the enlargement of a "succursale" for men.

Dr. Miraglia is a devoted phrenologist, and appears to perform the most minute craniological examinations during life and after death in order to seek confirmation of his opinions. The asylum seems to be well administered, with what would be in England a superabundance of medical assistants and other officers. The work provided for the patients appears to be more varied than is usual in asylums; and we are told of theatricals, poetical recitations, and musical entertainments got up among the patients themselves for their amusement. We are also glad to see that Dr. Miraglia proposes to give clinical lectures at the asylum, which is easily accessible by rail from Naples, where there are a very large number of medical students.

MEDICO-LEGAL CASES.

1. *The Mordaunt Divorce Case.*

The main facts of this sad case will be fresh in the recollection of our readers. Soon after her confinement Lady Mordaunt grievously distressed her husband by confessing that the child of which she had been delivered was not his, and accused herself of having committed adultery with three or four gentlemen. At first Sir Charles Mordaunt believed that she was labouring under delusion, but after making inquiries he came to the conclusion that there was truth in what she said, and instituted a suit for divorce. Thereupon it was alleged, on behalf of Lady Mordaunt, that she was insane when the citation was served upon her, and had continued insane from that time. The question therefore to be decided at the trial was not whether Lady Mordaunt had committed adultery, but whether she was sane enough on the 30th April, 1869, the day on which the citation was served upon her, or had been sane enough at any time since, to instruct her attorney.

The finding of the jury was that, on the 30th April, 1869, she was in such a condition of mental disorder as to be totally unfit and unable to answer the petition and to duly instruct her attorney for her defence, and that she had continued in the same condition ever since. The verdict was not a matter of surprise to any one; in fact, it was almost anticipated from the 19th February, when Mr. Serjeant Ballantine made the following statement:—

After I had heard the evidence of Sir James Simpson, Dr. Gull, and other medical gentlemen of eminence in relation to the present state of Lady Mordaunt, I felt it to be my duty to desire the medical men who had been in attendance upon her at her confinement to take the earliest possible opportunity of seeing her, and reporting to us her condition. By order of the court it was imperative on us not to allow any other person to see her. The reports they have made induce me to state that it is not in my power to contest the evidence given by the other gentlemen who were recently examined, in reference to her present state.

The theory of the petitioners in their attempt to rebut the plea of insanity was that of dissembling, as is clear from the following paragraph taken from Mr. Serjeant Ballantine's opening speech, on the 17th :—

Now, Lady Mordaunt was exceeding pressing about Johnstone from time to time, and she asked Sir Charles, "How is it that Johnstone does not marry?" The answer given by Sir Charles led her to hurry up to town next day, and consult Dr. Priestley. There was another, who was not a co-respondent, with whom she supped at an hotel, and with whom she went to the theatre; and upon that night she wrote a letter to her husband, which he was afraid he must read, as showing the deceit she was practising on her husband. The letter was as follows:—

"Palace Hotel, Buckingham-gate, Nov. 8.

"My darling Charley,—One line in great haste to say that I shall not be able to leave here by the twelve o'clock train to-morrow, but will come by the one which leaves Paddington by 8.50, if you will send the brougham to meet me. I felt horribly dull all by myself yesterday evening.

"Yours, &c.,

"H. MORDAUNT."

The letter written by Lady Mordaunt on the 10th April—a time when she was supposed to be insane—to her nurse Hancock, as follows :—

"Dear Nurse,—Pray say nothing more about all the nonsense I talked to you when you were here.

"H. MORDAUNT."

seemed indeed to lend support to the suspicion that there was some amount of malingering at the onset of her malady. The evidence bearing more particularly upon her mental condition was as follows :—

Miss Jane Lang was the first witness called. She deposed,—On the 17th of May last I became lady companion to Lady Mordaunt, who was then at Belgrave-square. I accompanied her to Worthing, and remained with her till August 18th. I was constantly in the house and in attendance upon her, sleeping in an adjoining room. Her memory was often quite gone. She would ask me to help her to think. She could not remember recent events, even those which had happened on the same day. She often used her fingers in eating, and she tore her fingers with pins, which she concealed about her dress. When out walking she would pick up horse manure and dried mud with her hands. I found it difficult to make her put such things down. She showed a total want of modesty; would go about the house with scarcely any clothing, and perform the offices of nature while standing in the drawing-room or bed-room, or in bed, without any utensil. She had to be washed and dressed like a child. Sometimes she would not speak for days. She wandered about the house at night, and often came to my bed-room. I ordered the servants to lock their rooms, and she asked for a hammer to break them open, as she thought Sir C. Mordaunt was locked up in them. She came down one night dressed only in stockings, slippers, an opera cloak, and muff. I bribed her with pennies to go quietly to bed. She once asked the flyman to lend her some money to pay himself. When out riding, she threw herself about the carriage. She complained of great pain in her head, and I applied eau de Cologne, a bottle of which she once applied to her feet.

Her hands and feet were always cold. She was sometimes very irritable, scolding everybody. The least noise distressed her, even the talking of persons walking in the road. There was a strange expression in her eyes. She took a dislike to some of her dresses, and said that one dress was the devil. She put one of her hats down the water-closet. She complained of things about her being dirty, and of seeing black things floating about. She would pick up pennies and hide them. When I first took charge of her she would not eat, for fear of poison, and I was obliged to feed her. She would try to control herself before strangers, which made her more excited afterwards. When she thought no one was watching her she showed these symptoms most. Her sleep was very irregular. I saw her last Monday, at Bromley. For about ten minutes she behaved very well, but then threw herself on the floor, went on her hands and knees, ate a piece of coal, and wandered about the house.

Cross-examination continued—She never accused herself of improper conduct with any gentleman, and never alluded to such a thing, nor conveyed any such idea. She mentioned the names of acquaintances, and talked of inviting them to make a party, so as to make her life less dull. One day, when pretty well, she referred to her confinement. She sometimes asked after her child, but did not refer to its having been born with an affection of the eyes. She talked of Sir Charles's journey to Norway, and of his having proposed that she should go too. She did not say he had wished her to go. I don't remember that she gave any reason why she did not go. She slept alone, Mrs. Caruthers sleeping in the adjoining room. She was allowed scissors, &c., sometimes. She asked me to get a check-book, but I did not, and she drew no checks while I was there. The checks produced are entirely in her handwriting. Lady Louisa Moncrieffe had told me of certain statements which Lady Mordaunt had made a few days after her confinement, and had mentioned certain names. I asked her, towards the end of July, whether she remembered what she had said when ill, and she replied, "I remember what it was said I had said, but I did not say it." She said nothing further, and I did not refer to the subject again. I think she understood to what I alluded. Lady Louisa came down in July, and was with her about three hours altogether. The letters produced are in Lady Moncrieffe's writing.

Dorothy Frances Caruthers—I have been accustomed to the care of persons of weak mind. I went to Lady Mordaunt at Worthing on the 31st of May, and remained till the end of August. I slept in the adjoining dressing-room. She had a bad memory, and talked very little, sometimes not speaking for an hour. She refused her food, thinking it was poisoned, but when she began, ate it ravenously with her fingers. She would pick articles of clothing to pieces with pins. When out riding she would laugh and spit much, and try to get out when the horses were going fast. Sometimes she refused to be washed, and would relieve herself on the floor of her bed-room or of the closet, as also in bed. She would besmear herself with the evacuations if not prevented. This happened twice or thrice. She was not at all ashamed of such conduct. One dress she objected to as connected with the devil. She complained of heat and pain in the head. She would come to me and tell me my head was hot or my feet were cold, instead of her own. She had a very vacant look. She was very anxious to have money, and once having picked up some pennies from the dressing-table gave the butler a penny to get some tooth powder and wished the rest to be laid out in postage-stamps. She would become very excited and box my ears without any provocation. I removed her dressing-case from her room because she so frequently asked for things out of it. The state I have described lasted all the time I was there.

Cross-examined—A piano, books, and drawing materials were in the room. She very seldom played, and, though she would sit with a book in her hand, I don't think she read it. I did not allow her to go to shop, as I thought she would have chosen a lot of things she could not have. She frequently wished to go shopping. Dr. Tuke sent for me to go to her. I never mentioned to her the circumstances of her confinement. She referred to her baby, and said she did not like babies, and wished to kill it. She gave no reason, but only laughed. She wished to go up to London. I went with the impression that she was a lunatic, and treated her as such.

Re-examined—I don't know that I was ever told she was a lunatic, but I concluded so from Dr. Tuke having sent for me, and from my having been an attendant on lunatics. She was angry when not allowed to go to London. She wanted to go to Walton and also to see Sir Charles, and asked for her baby to be sent her. She at first frequently spoke of Sir Charles, and before I left was angry, I think, that he did not come to her.

Jane Kettle—I went as companion to Lady Mordaunt last October, and have remained with her since at Bickley. Sometimes she takes her meals very quietly, but at other times she eats ravenously, and occasionally with her fingers. She helped at dinner at first, but sometimes would sit looking at the dish without helping herself or me, and after beginning would lay down the knife and fork, consequently I had to help instead. When out walking she would sometimes sit down on the ground and scrape the mud with her hands. When out driving she speaks little, but indulges in bursts of causeless laughter, and recently she has tried often to get out of the carriage. She often spits out of the window. Her face is frequently puckered up as if deep in thought, and at other times she looks quite wild and excited. She seems unable to carry on rational conversation; if she makes a remark it is a silly one, and if questioned she seldom answers. When out walking she will try to snatch children's hats off, and recently she went up to a beggar woman and gave her a dead leaf. The woman said, "Poor thing, God bless her." She will not do needlework, and she frequently holds a book in her hand upside down. At first she could play entire pieces on the piano, but she can now only get through a few bars. She frequently writes; the papers produced are in her writing. I collected them from her writing-case from time to time. She frequently destroys her music-books and clothes by burning them or tearing them up. She throws herself violently down on her face or back. At times she eats a large quantity of meat, but more frequently pastry. She eats coal, cinders, and "fluff" off the carpet. She seems contented and happy, though at times angry. Her baby was brought to Bickley the Saturday after I went there, and stayed about three weeks. She only had it in her hands three or four times, and did not seem to comprehend it was a baby. She put it on the floor and told it to amuse itself with a book, though it was only seven months old. She was not left alone with it. It went out in the carriage several times, but she took little notice of it. She put it once on the edge of the sofa, and it would have fallen if I had not saved it. She seems to have lost all sense of delicacy or decency. I remember playing whist with her with Dr. Wood. Her present state is decidedly worse than when I first went as her companion. Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Gull wished me to go.

Cross-examined—I have read her paragraphs I have seen in the papers respecting her case, but she has only laughed at them.

Sarah Barker—I am lady's-maid to Lady Mordaunt and have been with her since the 31st of August. I sleep in her bedroom, and see her constantly, as the house is very small I have tried to converse with her, but she cannot talk collectedly. Her memory on some points is good, on others it is bad. She remembers remote better than recent dates. She is quite indifferent about dress, and destroys her clothes. As to personal cleanliness I can only compare her to a beast of the field; she is not human. I frequently walked out with her. Sometimes she throws herself on the ground, or goes into shops and asks for articles she does not want. I have been obliged to use force to pull her out. She spits out of the carriage frequently. She got out once while it was in motion, and ran up the hill. I lock her bed-room door at night, because she frequently left the room and went into the passage or drawing-room. I had also seen her go into the butler's bed-room at the further end of the passage in her night dress. She has become decidedly worse. She did not appear to care for her baby, though she has nursed it. Dr. Gull and Dr. Reynolds sent me to Bickley.

Cross-examined—Lady Mordaunt has never referred to her separation from Sir Charles.

Dr. William Overend Priestley—I am Fellow of the College of Physicians and lecturer of King's College Hospital. I have for many years been medical attendant to various members of Sir T. Moncreiffe's family, including Lady Mordaunt. On the 6th of last May I went to Walton-hall, with Sir James Alderson and Dr. Harington Tuke. I have a few notes made immediately after my return. We were ushered into the luncheon-room, where Lady Mordaunt was. She recognised me. She was writing at a table to Sir Charles. She was at first somewhat cordial, but soon became taciturn, and conversation was impossible. She answered me about her condition at first in monosyllables, and to further questions gave me no answer. We lunched with her. Her sister, Mrs. Forbes (who has been recently confined, and is not yet convalescent), was also there. We could get no conversation with her. Sometimes she answered questions and sometimes not. On getting to the door in order to leave the room, she stood still and appeared to have lost consciousness. Her sister led her away. I went up to her sitting-room with the other two physicians.

We found her greatly distressed and in tears. We all attempted conversation with her, but I don't think I got a reply to a single question. We were with her altogether three or four hours. Each of us saw her alone. On the 16th, 17th, and 18th of May I saw her in Belgrave-square, twice with Dr. Gull. We agreed that she was of unsound mind, and quite incapable of managing her own affairs. Her memory was almost annihilated. I could make her understand only the simplest things, even those being doubtful, and I gathered from her attendants that her habits were those of a person of unsound mind. She seemed weak physically, her pulse being languid, and her general health impaired, but her mental powers were especially impaired. There is a close connexion between hysteria and catalepsy. Catalepsy is caused by some serious derangement of the nervous system, and it has great tendency to drift into something else. Catalepsy is not necessarily associated with unsoundness of mind, though it may accompany or follow it. Her countenance had an expression of vacuity and mental weakness. I have not seen her since May.

Cross-examined—It is difficult to define hysteria; the symptoms are very protean in their form, and many persons are subject to it. Lady Mordaunt was always very sensitive, but I had seen no indication of hysteria in her before. Her manner on leaving the room was a mild form of catalepsy. It is not a common disease. I had attended her before, and should have attended her in her confinement (the 28th of February) had it not been premature. I have seen Lady Louisa Moncreiffe several times. The first suggestion of insanity to me was by letters shown me by her sister, Mrs. Forbes, a fortnight after her confinement. I inquired into the character of the confinement and into statements she had made, which I learnt from Sir T. Moncreiffe. I heard she had imputed to herself impropriety, and I considered that when giving my opinion. In my certificate I said she was "suffering from puerperal insanity, accompanied by delusions, some of which still exist." She thought she was still mistress in her own house, and that Sir Charles had only left her for a short time, whereas he had permanently left her, and she had other delusions. I excluded from consideration the statements as to acts of impropriety, as I was not certain whether they were delusions or not, while there were others which were unmistakably delusions. I thought it very probable, however, the self-accusations were delusions. I thought it quite possible she might have detailed accounts which were perfectly true, and yet be suffering from puerperal insanity, but such self-accusations in the majority of cases are not true. Even if detailed statements of transactions with four or five gentlemen had proved to be entirely correct, I should still have thought her suffering from puerperal insanity, accompanied by delusions. I was informed she had been very excitable after her confinement and had picked at things which she imagined she saw in the air. Puerperal insanity may or may not be associated with delusions. Mrs. Forbes told me she still believed herself to be poisoned. I made no inquiries to satisfy myself whether the statements about certain gentlemen were true or false. I had no means of doing so.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine said he now proposed to question the witness as to the circumstances of Lady Mordaunt's confinement, her previous health, and the statements she then made.

Dr. Deane objected.

His Lordship, admitting that the objections had some force, said the question was whether these circumstances were material to the present issue, and the contention of the other side being that this lady was simulating insanity, he could not exclude facts which were relied upon as showing a motive for simulation.

Dr. Deane was willing at once to admit that there was the strongest motive for feigning insanity.

His Lordship asked Mr. Serjeant Ballantine what he wished to go into.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine replied that he wished to bring forward evidence regarding the child and a disease from which it was suffering.

His Lordship remarked that statements having, as it was alleged, been made compromising Lady Mordaunt's character, and constituting a strong motive for simulating insanity, the other side had a right to lay before the jury facts which might have been pressing on her mind and inducing her to take a particular course. If there was no question of good faith, all these matters would, of course, be immaterial. A great deal of evidence had been given to show that Lady Mordaunt's mind was affected, but her conduct was attributed on the other side to simulation, and the petitioner could not put before the jury his case on this head without showing the circumstances under which the motive for such simulation was said to have

arisen. It was unfortunate that to do this involved an investigation which might have to be gone through hereafter, but he saw no possibility of excluding this evidence if the petitioner insisted that it was material. He would, however, take a note of Dr. Deane's objection.

The cross-examination was accordingly proceeded with, and the witness said—In October, 1868, I attended Lady Mordaunt for a discharge of some kind; it was not then specific in its character, and I never thought it specific. Being further pressed on the matter, he stated that the child's affection of the eyes might have resulted either from a specific or non-specific form of disease on the part of its mother, and that the rapidity and thoroughness of its recovery furnished a strong presumption that it was not specific. The treatment for both forms would be precisely the same.

Dr. Thomas Harrington Tuke—On the 6th of May I visited Walton-hall. I have heard Dr. Priestley's evidence, and agree with it as far as it goes. I examined Lady Mordaunt, and that and a previous visit were the basis of my certificate. I thought her suffering from puerperal insanity, tending to dementia, also from catalepsy, which was very severe on the first, but less so on my second visit. On the 6th of May I thought the weakness of mind was more pronounced. She laughed much, and showed a tendency to reverie. I have not seen her since.

Cross-examined—My theory is that from about the fourth day after her confinement she had been suffering from puerperal insanity. I heard the statements she was alleged to have made to a great many people. I never communicated with Lady Louisa. I thought the statements were delusions, but I carefully avoided referring to them in my report, as there were many other delusions. It seemed to me incredible that a lady within a few weeks or months of her confinement should have acted as I was told she had asserted with half a dozen gentlemen. The ordinary delusion of puerperal mania is of that kind. I excluded those statements from consideration, thinking her on other grounds clearly insane, and I was anxious not to involve other persons. She had been under a delusion that there were dead bodies in the room and on my asking her about this, she said "Well, were there not dead bodies there?" She also told me that she was poisoned by laudanum in her bed-room, but I ascertained there had been no laudanum. She also thought her husband would return shortly.

Sir James Alderson—I went with Drs. Priestley and Tuke to Walton. I concluded that Lady Mordaunt was of unsound mind. I saw her again with Dr. Gull, on the 8rd of July, at Worthing. Everything was then worse than previously. The bodily symptoms were more marked. She had a very vacant look, cold, wet hands, slow pulse, disordered circulation, a white tongue, stained as if with milk, and an atmosphere about her peculiar to insanity. She had a fixed attitude, and scarcely gave a single rational answer to our numerous questions. There was an attempt to speak, but she appeared to lose the thread of her sentences, and ended with a silly laugh. I saw several scraps of her writing. I have not seen her since. I have heard the evidence of the attendants. If true it shows that she is of unsound mind.

Cross-examined—I have been physician to an asylum with 100 patients, but lunacy is not my speciality. I think I could distinguish an insane patient by the perfume she exuded.

By the Court—Puerperal insanity generally comes on three or four days after confinement, but sometimes not till the end of suckling. Self-accusation is very common with it.

Sir James Simpson—I am a physician, practising at Edinburgh. I saw Lady Mordaunt at Walton on the 14th of April, and again last Saturday, when I found her fearfully insane, a mere wreck and ruin of the mind. She was in good bodily health. I went down with her mother, and remained one hour and a half or two hours. She recognised us both, and was more alive in her mind than afterwards. She said she should like to see Sir Charles, and on being asked whether she ever wrote, said "No," this being the only rational answer which she gave the whole time. She interrupted the conversation by asking whether I had ever seen a sideboard with V.C. written on it, and on our leaving told me to be sure to send up from Edinburgh the book, glass jar, and new footman which I had ordered for her. I had not ordered such things. In half the cases of puerperal insanity the patients get well within a year; the chance of recovery then diminishes, and about a third remain permanently insane. In my opinion, Lady Mordaunt is utterly insane, and time alone will show whether she is incurable or not.

In cross-examination, the witness expressed an opinion that the insanity had commenced before the confinement, as, when taken with premonitory symptoms while driving out, Lady Mordaunt drove home, changed her dress, and went out again, which no sane woman would have done. Three days after her confinement she spoke, he was informed, of figures running along the walls. He advised that she should be placed under proper treatment, but understood that her parents had been told by a lawyer at Leamington that her removal would be an admission of her guilt. He thought her statements were probably delusions, such things being a common form of delusion in puerperal insanity. Indeed, 15 years ago, when he sent Dr. Priestley to see a patient suffering from it, she exclaimed, as soon as she saw him, "There's the father of my child." (Laughter.)

Re-examined—There were generally antecedent symptoms, especially insomnia and a deranged state of the bowels, and Lady Mordaunt had had no motion for six days, which would be a great predisposing cause.

By the Court—Self-accusations of impropriety were a common symptom of puerperal insanity. The organ diseased gave a type to the insanity, so that with women suffering from affliction of the genital organs the delusions would be more likely to be connected with sexual matters.

Dr. Gull—I am a Fellow of the College of Physicians. In May, 1869, I was called on to see Lady Mordaunt, together with Dr. Priestley. I saw her again the next day, and several times afterwards, at Worthing and Bickley. I have been struck with the uniformity of her state at all my visits. She seemed to have no mental comprehension. I questioned her on all sorts of subjects, and even referred to her unfortunate position, but it made no impression on her. She rarely uttered two consecutive sentences. I once asked her what she could suggest should be done with reference to her unfortunate position. She said she thought a dose of castor oil would set it all right. I could see no delusions, nor even conceptions. At first she was languid, had a cold clammy hand, and a feeble pulse, with an absent expression. There was often a meaningless laugh. There has been no improvement in her state, and I think she is incapable of mind. I last saw her three weeks since. The symptoms I have seen might arise from any form of insanity.

In cross-examination the witness was shown several cheques drawn by Lady Mordaunt, which, with the exception of the two most recent (last December), were, he said, reasonably drawn and correctly filled up. He had directed particular attention to the question of simulation, but could not arrive at an affirmative conclusion.

By the Court—Much would depend on the circumstances under which the cheques were drawn. A suggestion to fill up a cheque would carry her mind in doing so. She was ready to do whatever was suggested to her, such as taking up an article and turning it upside down. The strongest evidence against simulation was the uniformity of her condition and her incapacity to take in ideas. When addressed with the most searching questions her pulse and heart showed no agitation whatever. On being asked whether she would like her husband to visit her she gave an irrelevant answer.

Dr. George Burrows—On the 10th of July I saw Lady Mordaunt at Worthing, with Dr. Reynolds, by request of Sir Charles Mordaunt's solicitor. I came to the conclusion she was quite unable to give advice or instructions to a legal adviser. Her external aspect was that of health, but she frequently changed colour, stared vacantly, and knit her brows, which were sometimes rigid. Messrs. Harris, Jones, and Orford were also present. She would only answer to repeated questions. I have heard the evidence, which confirms my opinion, especially as to her habits.

In cross-examination, the witness said that at first he was unable to form an opinion on the facts he had personally observed. Mr. Orford told him he had attended her in her confinement.

Re-examined—My opinion is her mind has been progressively deteriorating, and that she is now in a state of dementia.

Dr. Russell Reynolds—I am a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and am Professor of Medicine at University College. I accompanied Dr. Burrows to Worthing, at the request of Sir C. Mordaunt's solicitor. I did not see Lady Mordaunt alone. She recognised Mr. Orford. I put several questions, but sometimes had to repeat them two or three times before she answered. She made a complaint of her teeth, and on my asking whether she had cut her wisdom teeth seemed a little amused. She often simply looked or smiled when questioned. I could not arrive at any conclusion. I have seen her since at Bickley several times, in accordance with an order from the Court that I should have access to her. At first I was doubtful to

what to attribute her state, but I found that hysterical lethargy must be excluded, and that the cause was either extreme disease or extreme shamming, and after all I have seen I think it is the former. I tried to detect simulation, but never saw any break in her demeanour.

Cross-examined—I saw her once put her fingers into some gravy, but I have not otherwise seen any act of uncleanness. At first I saw no evidence of fatuity. I discovered no delusion. When I asked her whether she really thought Sir Charles was only away fishing she made no answer.

By the Court—It is an unusual case, and there are some points of contradiction in it such as the amount of intelligence shown up to a certain point, coupled with the uncleanness which is generally confined to extreme cases of dementia. She can play an air and sometimes answer sensibly on common things, and can write letters. It was this inconsistency which for some time made me doubtful.

Mr. William Harris said—I am a surgeon practising at Worthing. On the 22nd of May I was called in to attend Lady Mordaunt, and visited her about twice a week while she remained at Worthing. I could not get her to converse. I agree with the evidence given yesterday as to the state of her mind.

Cross-examined—I have no doubt she is suffering from puerperal mania, a disease which I think could not be mistaken at the time it appears. Such patients are often delirious and violent, and sometimes have delusions. I should attach little importance to statements made in such a condition. Pain and heat in the head, constipation, muttering, a feverish pulse, and white tongue, are symptoms of the disease.

Re-examined—The symptoms vary a good deal at different times and with different people.

Mr. Hughes Spencer Hughes, surgeon, of Bromley, said—I was called in to attend Lady Mordaunt on the 25th of August, at Bickley, and am still in attendance. I have visited her more than fifty times, often for hours at a time. I consider that she has no mind. She is utterly unable to converse, and she has no memory. I was informed from time to time by the attendants of things spoken to yesterday, but have myself seen nothing indelicate. At dinner she is most capricious, sometimes not eating at all, and at others eating ravenously. The acts described yesterday are such as I heard from time to time, only I heard worse still, and they are such as I should expect from a person in Lady Mordaunt's state. She has become unmistakably worse, and requires to be constantly watched. Her physical condition has improved, which appears to me inconsistent with simulation. The effort involved in shamming would affect her bodily condition unfavourably. Whatever subject I have touched on it has made no impression upon her.

Cross-examined—The witness said he had no doubt of the disease being puerperal mania. He had asked whether anything was on her mind. On suffering recently from pain in the face, caused by the stopping of a decayed tooth, she said, "It is nothing; it is baby cutting her eye tooth." She ate much, but seemed to have strong powers of digestion. When excited he treated her with bromide of potassium, but usually she was passive.

By the Court—Her demeanour was very uncertain. A happy frame of mind, he thought, prevailed. He had seen her face a perfect blank frequently.

Dr. Wm. Wood—On the 5th of August I was named referee by the Court, with Drs. Gull and Reynolds, and have seen Lady Mordaunt five times.

Dr. Deane proposed to put the witness's report in evidence, Dr. Wood having been appointed by the Court; but his Lordship explained that he had simply named him, having heard him give evidence in other cases, and knowing him to be a most competent person, and Mr. Serjeant Ballantine objected to the report being put in.

Examination resumed—The first visit was on the 18th September, at Page Heath, near Bromley, with Mr. Hughes. She came down dressed as if for a walk. I had never seen her before. On Mr. Hughes introducing me, she said, somewhat sharply, "I am very well," as if there was no occasion for my visit. I asked how long she had been there, and she at last said, "I don't know exactly." On pressing her I could not get any intelligent answer. I felt her pulse, and found it very weak, suggestive of a feeble circulation. Her hands were cold and clammy; also her feet. I got replies with difficulty as to her health. I asked her to sing a song, and I selected a song from a pile of music. She played imperfectly but after correcting her mistakes, started fairly with the song, which was "Strangers yet." It was manifestly applicable to her position, and after singing the first verse she burst into tears. I pressed her to continue, and she did so, though her tears were falling

so. She broke down again. On my asking what distressed her, she said, "Oh, it's all nonsense, hysterical." She began again, but her feelings quite overcame her. I pressed her again however, and she continued. She obeyed unhesitatingly anything I told her to do, however unmeaning. To test her submission further I told her to take an ornament off the mantle-piece. She complied, and held it in different positions, and turned it upside down, and replaced it as I ordered. This seemed to me conclusive as to her imbecility, for she showed no irritation or impatience at being made such a fool of. She expressed a wish to see the child, and asked me spontaneously whether I could let it come. On her showing levity I told her it was a serious matter, and that I hoped she would treat it seriously, as I had come to get at the truth, and she could not deceive me. I did not "attack her somewhat roughly," as I have seen it stated. My next visit was on the 23rd of September. She was standing like a statue, looking very blankly. On being roused a little, she answered briefly, but sensibly. Her attitude was such as occurs in catalepsy, but I not think it was true catalepsy. I never got a long sentence from her, and, if prompt, her answers were very short. I produced some money, and asked her to name the coins. She tried to give the amount of several coins, such as two half-crowns and two florins, but she could not give a correct answer. I varied the experiment, but she always failed. She asked me to give her some money. I suggested her writing a cheque if she wanted some. She assented, and a piece of paper being put before her, she wrote something without putting in the name of a banker. On this being pointed out, she wrote "Greenway and Co." in the corner, and on my suggestion that this was still insufficient she wrote a note to that firm. She at first wrote "Fir Grove," but on my asking where it was she erased it and substituted "Page Heath." On my asking who Greenway and Co. were, she directed an envelope to "H Greenway, Esq., Warwick." She told me, in reply to questions, to cash the cheque, and I agreed to give her £5 for it. She said this in her ordinary tone. Before leaving I referred to the cheque, and just before I left she reminded me of my promise to give her £5 for it. On the 24th of September I went again, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Murray being there, and I dined with them. Lady Mordaunt sat at the head of the table, and began helping the soup, but stopped after helping two of us, and the servant completed it. She would suddenly cease eating, and after dinner she seemed to listen to the conversation, and now and then burst into a laugh which was not altogether inappropriate, but she did not join in the conversation. On the 30th of September she appeared more lost than previously. I referred to her visits to London and the Crystal Palace, she having recently been there, but she would answer no questions upon it, and for the first time showed some impatience. Anything mechanical that was suggested to her she would do, but she was incapable of anything requiring reflection. I referred again to money, but she seemed to have no recollection of the previous transaction as to the cheque. I proposed to her to give me a check, having arranged that a cheque-book should be brought in. On my suggestion she asked the butler to bring it, and it was put before her. She filled up one in the usual way, drawing it on herself, the amount (£30) being suggested to her. I suggested that it required endorsing, but she only added two letters, and on my telling her this was insufficient she inserted her initials. I had to tell her how to endorse it, and she did so. At first she omitted the date, and afterwards wrote 1868 instead of 1869. (The date of the cheque here reminded the witness that this occurred on the 26th.) I asked what I should give her for it. She replied "Half-a crown," and I gave her one. She stated, in reply to my question, that she was quite satisfied that was the value of the check. She said she would buy wool with the half-crown. I next went on the 25th of October, having requested Miss Keddle not to let her know I was coming. At first she did not speak to me, but on my reminding her of the omission she smiled and offered me her left hand. She seemed slightly better. The child was staying there, and on my mentioning it she went to fetch it, but returned without it, and made no further allusion to it. After a time the nurse brought it. She looked at it, but did not take it. I played whist with her. She would suddenly come to a stop but played tolerably well, though she made several mistakes, which, on their being pointed out, she apologised for and corrected. I was struck with her uniform conduct and action on all my visits. Her mind seemed almost a blank. She could be roused up to a certain point of rational thought and action, and would promptly obey the promptings of a stronger mind. I have no doubt she would draw cheques correctly if directed, but she was incapable of reflection. She appears to have a feeble circulation, and is naturally not robust, though rather florid.

Cross-examined—The witness said he thought Lady Mordaunt could not have spontaneously drawn cheques correctly. He should think it improbable for her to draw cheques without being roused, but if she had done so that would not shake his opinion. She “revoked” at whist in a way no sane person would have done. He had himself sometimes revoked. (Mr. Serjeant Ballantine remarked, amid laughter, that he hoped this was not an indication of insanity.) I did not take any single circumstance as proof of insanity. Her bursting into tears at the song was, as far as it went, an indication of insanity, and, therefore, inconsistent with the theory of shamming. It was her docility in the matter which was most remarkable.

By the Court—I have had much experience of insanity, and am one of the physicians at St. Luke’s. A case of puerperal insanity recently occurred there very similar to Lady Mordaunt’s, and I have seen repeated instances, though such a state is not of common occurrence. It is not true dementia, but is an arrest of mental powers, which is not strictly imbecility or dementia. It is impossible that any human being should have carried out a system of deception such as that suggested by the petitioner. Lady Mordaunt’s conduct was invariably consistent, whereas the most practised artist would have been betrayed into tripping. Simulation would have been betrayed by inconsistencies. I am disposed to agree with Mr. Hughes, that her having gained flesh is evidence of a tranquil state of mind, and is incompatible with consciousness of her position, or with efforts to deceive. Puerperal insanity may occur during pregnancy, at confinement, or during lactation. It is possible that Lady Mordaunt, though suffering from it now, was sane at the time of and after her confinement. In the majority of cases puerperal insanity is more or less progressive.

Sir Thomas Moncrieffe—I am the father of Lady Mordaunt. On the 10th of May I saw her alone at Walton. I found her in the luncheon-room. I stayed all night, and left the next afternoon. I was with her most of the time. I have often attempted to converse with her without succeeding; sometimes she answered questions briefly, sometimes not at all, and sometimes did not seem to understand them. She often seemed indifferent to my visits, and when I asked whether she wished to see her mother or sisters, would sometimes reply in the affirmative, at others in the negative, and at others seemed indifferent. On the 15th of May I removed her. She went away comfortably with her sister, Mrs. Forbes, but did not seem to understand the import of her remarks. She was a little hysterical at one time, and the noise at the terminus seemed to frighten her. After staying a few days at Belgrave Square she was taken to Worthing, and afterwards to Bickley. I frequently visited her. At times she showed gleams of understanding, but usually appeared imbecile. On the 9th of February she appeared in the same mental state, but her bodily health has improved. Dr. Gull recommended Worthing as a quiet place, and said her mind required rest.

Cross-examined—Lady Louisa Moncrieffe went to Walton the second day after her daughter’s confinement, and after leaving went again. I heard from Lady Louisa and Mrs. Forbes of statements made by Lady Mordaunt; also partially from Sir Charles I heard that Lady Mordaunt had told her mother that the child was not Sir Charles’. She also said it was not hers; indeed, she made all kinds of statements. I think she told me Lady Mordaunt had told her the child was not her husband’s, and that she had mentioned a gentleman as the father. The witness was here questioned respecting a letter written by Lady Mordaunt on the 9th of October, 1869, to her mother, and the production of which had been called for by the other side. It was accordingly produced and read, being as follows:—

“October 8.

“My dear Mother,—I am at last able to write a line to tell you that I am at liberty to write to you, and say I am quite well. Bird has taken a journey home to-day; has become very cockey of late. I hope Bunchey was not any the worse for her visit. She seemed in good spirits, but did not divulge much home news. I should be much surprised at a frost if it came. Good bye.

“Yours affectionately,

“H. MORDAUNT.”

“Bunchey” means my daughter Blanche, and Bird is Sir C. Mordaunt’s butler. Blanche had been on a visit to her sister for a month. Lady Louisa is in town. Mrs. Forbes was confined about three weeks ago, and cannot yet leave the house.

This closed the case on the part of Lady Mordaunt’s guardians.

In the examination of Sir C. Mordaunt, the following evidence was elicited :—

Cross-examination continued by Dr. Deane—Dr. Jones said she was at times eccentric. Dr. Orford had been attending her, and I called in Dr. Jones because I myself thought these statements might have arisen from some irregularity.

Was it for her bodily health you called in Dr. Jones?—It was.

And not because of the state of her mind?—No.

To the Court—I thought her bodily health might have affected her mind.

Examination continued—I did say once to Mrs. Forbes that she seemed to me to be hysterical.

Is that your handwriting?—Yes.

Did Dr. Jones describe the state of your wife as hysterical catalepsy?—Yes.

Dr. Deane—There is no date to the letter; was it the 8th?—Yes.

Dr. Deane then read the letter, which was recognised by the witness as one he had written to Lady Louisa Moncrieffe, the mother of Lady Mordaunt. It was as follows:—

“My dear Lady Louisa,—Harriet has not been quite so well since I last wrote, having been hysterical and rather nervous and excitable, but without any fever. Orford says that there is no cause for anxiety, and that it will pass off. The baby is much the same, and its eyes are no better. Nobody has seen Harriet, except Mrs. Cadogan and myself, and that but seldom, as the least excitement puts her into the state I have described. Orford comes twice a day.”

Dr. Deane—Is that the state in which she was at the time you wrote that letter?

—Yes.

A letter written by Sir Charles, on the 10th, was next read:—

“Walton Hall, Wednesday.

“My dear Lady Louisa,—Harriet had a very good night, and slept for eight hours, but still she has nervous attacks, during which her mind wanders very much. Altogether she is much better than she was yesterday, and Orford thinks her strong enough to get up, but at present it is difficult to get her to understand what is said to her, and she appears to have forgotten all about the baby. Perhaps it is as well, because the poor little thing, though still alive, is nearly blind, and no one could wish the little thing to live in such misery.”

Dr. Deane—Does that describe her state at the time you wrote the letter?—Yes. At the time I wrote those letters I was not thoroughly convinced of her guilt. I was under the impression that she had something on her mind, and no doubt hearing her say these strange things I believed at the time they were not true. I clung to the last hope as long as I could.

What do you mean by saying she had nervous attacks, during which her mind wandered?—This was written two days after the full confession. I considered her mind wandered because she said these things to me, which I was unwilling to believe, and did not believe at the time. She appeared not to understand sometimes, and she seemed to me not to take notice of the baby.

A letter, dated the following day, from Sir Charles to Lady Louisa Moncrieffe, was next read:—

“My dear Lady Louisa,—Soon after I wrote yesterday there was a decided change for the better in the baby, and to-day we think there are great hopes of its doing well. There is much less discharge from her eyes, and she has opened them wide for the first time. I am very sorry I cannot give a better account of Harriet, who does not recover so quickly as she ought. She is so far strong that she is well enough, the doctor says, to get up; but her nervous system is so prostrate that we cannot get her to do so or to take food, and she seldom understands what is said to her. Yesterday Orford told me to call in Dr. Jones, of Leamington, who is said to be very clever. But he said there was no cause for anxiety, and also that it is a case in which no medicine can be given. He thinks that as she continues to sleep so well that her nervous system is sure to get better by and by. The baby has been several times brought to her, but she only noticed it for a minute, and directed

it to be taken away. . . . I am very anxious and distressed about her, but feel quite sure Jones understands her case, as he says that he has seen many similar."

To Dr. Deane—I supposed from her saying these things that she was in a nervous state. At the time I wrote the letter I had mentioned to Dr. Jones that she had made some extraordinary statements to me.

The next letter read was likewise written to Lady Louisa. In it Sir Charles Mordaunt said :—

"My darling Harriet remains much the same; she takes more food and sleeps very well, but remains quiet, without speaking or understanding anything that is said to her. She is out of bed and in the sitting-room, and we have done all we could to rouse her from her apathetic state. The doctors say it is entirely hysterical. Baby gets better and worse alternately. I am afraid the improvement is not so decided as I thought. The wet nurse is constantly with it."

Dr. Deane—At the time you wrote that letter was Lady Mordaunt in an apathetic state?—She was at the time very silent.

Four other letters were read to the same purpose, namely that at the time Sir Charles Mordaunt thought his wife in an unsound state of mind. In one he said, "Jones says it is a case of cataleptic hysteria," and, "Harriet has called me by name several times, and has said a few words."

To Dr. Deane—There was a time when Lady Mordaunt did not call me by name. My impression was that her mind wandered. In another letter he said, "Her mind cannot understand what is said to her." In the eighth letter he said, "Harriet remains in much the same state. They call it cataleptic hysteria."

Dr. Deane—In the letter you say that she had cataleptic hysteria?—That is what Dr. Jones told me.

Did Lady Mordaunt ever attempt to suckle the baby in your presence?—Once; and then she said, "Take it away." I am not aware that her sister, the Duchess of Athole, was at the Alexandra Hotel on the night in question. Mr. Haynes was my legal adviser in these matters. It was by his advice that I told the Moncrieffe family not to visit Walton.

Re-examined—There was nothing in Lady Mordaunt's state to lead me to believe that she was wandering. When I wrote the letters to Lady Moncrieffe, I intended to keep my wife. After I found the letters in the desk I never wrote. After that Mrs. Forbes wrote. That is my wife's handwriting. I found that diary in her travelling bag. [Diary was put in but not read.] I said to Dr. Orford that I was afraid of Lady Mordaunt's silence, owing to her having said these things to me, injuring her health. I told the doctors she had made certain statements to me which I did not believe, and it was on this account I asked the doctors to come in. I never had an illness of the kind referred to.

The following evidence shows the impression made by Lady Mordaunt upon those who appeared as witnesses on behalf of Sir C. Mordaunt :—

Mrs. Charlotte Murray, who was examined by Mr. Inderwick, said—I am the wife of Mr. Herbert Murray, and my husband is a relation of the Moncrieffe family. My husband is also connected with the Mordaunt family. On the 17th November I went to Bickley to see Lady Mordaunt, and stayed there till December 28. Lady Mordaunt received me very well. I spent the whole of the day with her, and I had conversations with her. I went with her to the Crystal Palace on December 21st. I said to her, "I hope you will come to London in the winter, that I may be able to see more of you, you will be so dull." Lady Mordaunt replied, "I hope I shall, I do not want to be dull." Witness further detailed a conversation, but her replies to the learned counsel were quite inaudible. One part of the conversation was that Lady Mordaunt said to her, "What business had Charley to go jabbering about to other ladies, do you call yourself a lady?" Witness replied, "I hope so," and then her ladyship accused her of coming "ferretting about here," and she (witness) replied, "I do not come 'ferretting' about here." She said to Lady Mordaunt, "How came you to do such a foolish thing? Surely you could not have cared for all those men?" Lady Mordaunt made no reply. In reference to a divorce case,

which had been before the public, her ladyship said, "It is I who will have to bear all the ignominy." I had numerous conversations with Lady Mordaunt, and she conversed rationally. I never noticed anything wrong in her conversation, except very often she would not answer. When she did answer she replied rationally. On October 23 Lady Mordaunt came up to my house with her maid, Barker. The maid went away, and Lady Mordaunt was all day in the society of myself and husband. Lady Mordaunt went upstairs and took off her things. My husband was out, but returned soon after, and Lady Mordaunt went out for a walk with him. When they came back from the walk General Arbuthnot had, I think, arrived. I was present when Lady Mordaunt was conversing with the General, but I did not hear what the conversation was. While they were talking Mr. H. Murray and Mr. Fiennes came in. I heard Lady Mordaunt say to him, "How is it you did not introduce me to General Arbuthnot?" Lady Mordaunt went out for a walk for one or two hours with Mr. Fiennes, and she returned by train. During the whole of the day she appeared to be perfectly rational. On the 23rd of November and afterwards I observed a change in her.

Cross-examined by Dr. Deane—While at the Crystal Palace Lady Mordaunt behaved rationally, except that she sat on a weighing chair. She (Lady Mordaunt) afterwards sat down on the ground in the garden, and she remonstrated with her, and she arose when Bird (the butler) told her to get up. This was on the 21st of October. Mr. Fiennes once made a communication to me as to the manner Lady Mordaunt behaved on the day she was at my house. Lady Mordaunt did not always answer questions. I have noticed sudden pauses in her movements. I have noticed pauses both in her conversation and movements. I dined once with Mr. Herbert and Dr. Wood. Lady Mordaunt sat at the head of the table, and her ladyship helped the soup. There were four of us. When she had helped one or two she stopped, and could not help more. Mr. Herbert Murray is in court. From the 17th of September to the 28th I do not think Lady Mordaunt was insane. I think she might have been "shamming" to a certain degree. Her mind was not fully capable as it would be if she had been in perfect health. I think she was "shamming" to a certain degree on account of those conversations I had with her. Her acts were always sensible, but her manner was not. Lady Mordaunt sometimes made long pauses, and her laugh was sometimes peculiar and hysterical. She would laugh very wildly.

By Serjeant Ballantine—Supposing there were no question of sanity or insanity I should at those times have considered her hysterical. Her memory did not appear to fail her. Lady Mordaunt did not know Dr. Wood was coming. Before Dr. Wood came I had a conversation with her, and when Dr. Wood and Mr. Hughes came in Lady Mordaunt would hardly answer questions, and then only with long pauses.

Mr. Herbert Murray said—I went down to Bickley on the 25th of September, and saw Lady Mordaunt on the doorstep. I walked round the garden with her. I said I heard she and my wife had been quarrelling, and she said they had. I conversed about the unfortunate Lord Justice Clerk, who was found with his throat cut, and Lady Mordaunt said, "A very good job, too; there are too many lawyers already in the world. Charley has turned lawyer lately, but he has not done himself any good by it." We then conversed about plays and croquet on the lawn at Moncrieffe five or six years ago, which I remembered. I returned to London that evening. I had a letter from Dr. Wood, and went down again on the following Sunday. I went to church with her. We drove there, but when we got to the church she would not go in, and we went for a drive. We drove round the common on the way home. On passing the church in the afternoon I asked her to go in at the fag-end of the service and hear the music, and she consented. I had a conversation with her. She talked about going back to Walton, but I said, "You will not go back there." She said, "Why not?" I replied, "You know perfectly well." And she said, "Why does not Charley come and tell me so?" I said, "He has done so already by letter." Lady Mordaunt did not reply. I spoke to her about her position, and she said, "What shall I do?" I said, "I cannot give you any advice. You would be naturally suspicious of me because I am Charley's uncle;" and I added, "I suppose you do suspect me a bit," and she laughed and replied, "I do." I advised her to write to her uncle, Mr. Fiennes, who was in England—her other relations being in Scotland, and the conversation ended by her saying she would write to him. Witness gave further evidence as to Lady Mordaunt's demeanour. She thanked me for my advice, and said, "I have never had any advice given me before." This took place on the last Sunday in

September. I dined on that evening in company with Dr. Wood, and I noticed, after she had been talking to me quite properly before, that when Dr. Wood asked her simple questions she would not answer, but when pressed would say, "Yes, yes." She noticed the whole conversation, for some stories were told, and she laughed at the right place. On the evening of the following day when we were driving from the Crystal Palace she was very silent. In the evening Miss Parsons and I again noticed a change in her. When Miss Parsons came she (Lady Mordaunt) stood looking at her without saying a word, and then turned round and went out of the room. I noticed that she was watching Miss Parsons at dinner time. I suggested that she should go to London next day, and she assented readily. In the morning, however, she was not disposed to go. We tossed up whether she should go or not, and she lost. We went to town, and in a shop window we noticed a dress. Some time after, while walking past the same shop, I noticed a dress, and said, "That is the same dress we saw here before," and Lady Mordaunt said it was not; the spots were larger. She was right.

Cross-examined by Dr. Deane—I last saw her in November, when she appeared quite rational as a rule. Her manner at Bickley was the same as in the previous year, except that once she turned round and shook hands with me, and I did not know why she should do it. During the whole time I saw Lady Mordaunt she was quite rational. At the dinner party I saw that she noticed the conversation because she laughed at the right time. I have sometimes seen her laugh hysterically. I had a conversation, with Dr. Wood in reference to what was said in the garden on the Sunday. I did not tell Dr. Wood that I failed to elicit any evidence of her understanding me. I have no recollection of telling Dr. Wood that I did not think Lady Mordaunt capable of giving proper instructions for her defence of the charges brought against her. If Dr. Wood has stated so, I may have said so, but I do not remember. I have an impression that I did not. In a conversation in which she mentioned Bird, the butler, she turned the subject, and spoke of Cobb. I believe in that conversation she was not straightforward.

Dr. Deane—Was she shamming?

Witness—Well, I don't know; she changed the conversation; she was not straightforward.

Dr. Deane—Was she shamming?

Witness—Well, if you like.

Dr. Deane—It is as you like (laughter).

Witness (pressed)—I rather think she was "shamming" to be rather wrong in her mind. She never "shammed" to me, I consider, after the first two days. She was, I believe, in her senses, and for the greater part of her time in the possession of her faculties. I asked her about the fits of silence frequently, and I questioned her as to whether she understood what was being said. She replied, "I am thinking, and can't answer." Mr. Fiennes has communicated with me as to Lady Mordaunt's conduct on the afternoon of the 28th October.

By Mr. Serjt. Ballantine—I knew Lady Mordaunt slightly before her marriage. She appeared to be very dull at Bickley, and complained of it. There was no amusement there except driving. She asked me to take her to the play.

Florence Stephens said—I was cook at Walton Hall. Before Lady Mordaunt's confinement I took orders as to dinner. I only saw her occasionally. I went down to Bickley on the 8th of September, and remained there till the 17th. While I was there I saw Lady Mordaunt every morning, and took her orders for luncheon and dinner. I drew out the dinner on a slate for her approval. She sometimes made alterations and sometimes assented. On the 8th I went to Lady Mordaunt, when she said, "Stephens, how are you?" and I asked her how she was getting on, and she answered, "All right." Lady Mordaunt also made inquiries about Walton. She took her ladyship some flowers, and she (Lady Mordaunt) said, "They are rather too much blown." That was so. Her ladyship on another occasion asked her if the kitchen was convenient, and talked rationally about domestic matters. One dinner time, when Bird was absent, Lady Mordaunt inquired the reason of his absence, there being no one to wait at table. Her ladyship also spoke about the baby coming, and the day before she said, "Make some white soup as you did before." She had made white soup before. Witness further gave evidence to show that Lady Mordaunt gave rational orders and understood the domestic arrangements, and said—I believe she was of sound mind. Lady Mordaunt behaved quite rationally, and during the whole of her stay at Bickley she noticed nothing to indicate that her mistress was not of perfectly sound mind.

Mr. Frederick James Orford, M.R.C.S., practising in the neighbourhood of Walton, said—I have been in practice thirteen years. I have been in attendance on Sir Charles's family, and I knew Lady Mordaunt after her marriage. Had attended her previous to her confinement. I attended her for a miscarriage once. I cannot say I considered her of hysterical temperament. I was called in at her confinement, which came on prematurely. I arrived at eight o'clock on the evening of the 22nd. Lady Mordaunt was placed under chloroform next (Sunday) afternoon, and was ultimately delivered of a child. She suffered less than ordinary. The child was a small one—an eight months' child. I formed that conclusion from various circumstances. It was a small child, but it might have been a full-time child. I watched the state of her health. I know the difference between puerperal fever and puerperal mania. She had no appearance of any mania. She did not show any sign of delusion whatever from the commencement during my attendance. She required less medicine than usual. I believe I examined the state of her pulse. There were no signs of fever to my knowledge. There were no indications that I should find in any case of fever. I am prepared to say that during my attendance she was not suffering from fever. Visited her mostly twice a day up to March 18th. Her mother came down shortly after her confinement, and remained, I should think, about a week. Lady Mordaunt was in a satisfactory state of health when her mother left. Had conversations with the mother about her daughter. Had not heard of her suffering from a discharge before her confinement. On the Thursday after the birth I noticed the child's eyes. They were very bad. Remedies were applied which would have been applicable to either leucorrhœa or gonorrhœa. I am of opinion that she was perfectly sane at the time of her confinement. I saw her at Worthing on July 10th, when I conversed with her for perhaps about fifteen minutes, on three separate interviews. She was sensible. There was nothing to indicate that she was not in full possession of her senses. Puerperal fever requires peculiar treatment. I have never met with a case of puerperal mania. I have had no experience of it. It is another name for madness. There was no madness about Lady Mordaunt. She did not rave in my presence during my attendance. She expressed herself in monosyllables. Lady Mordaunt slept very well. She did not talk excessively. She was not weaker than ladies generally are after confinement; on the contrary, she was stronger. Did not meet the doctors when they came down, on the 6th of May, to Walton, although I was invited to meet them. I gave them no information.

Cross-examined by Dr. Deane—On Thursday last I saw Lady Mordaunt, and she was in such a state that I thought her mind was gone. I had not seen her between the 10th of July and then. On the 10th of July, at Worthing, there was nothing wrong with her mind at all. I was at Worthing about two hours. I went to see Lady Mordaunt last week by Serjeant Ballantine's request. I could not state the age of the child. In my profession scientific ideas are received of the weight of a child. I could form no opinion as regards my experience. I could not say what was the weight of the child. I believe it was 3½lbs. Why I called in Dr. Jones was because I did not like the responsibility of the case.

The Judge—Why did you call in Dr. Jones?

Witness—I thought there was a great deal going on that would come out afterwards, and I wanted to have some one at my back (laughter).

Cross-examination continued—I did not think it necessary to take any precautions more than usual to prevent excitement. I saw no indications of loss of memory. Never tested her memory. I have said she was prostrate from excitement, but the excitement did not occur in my presence. It was the nervous system that was prostrate. I called in Dr. Jones on the whole case, and not on account of prostration of her nervous system. She was not hysterical, of that I am quite sure. Did not tell Sir Charles that she was hysterical. Nobody attended her besides myself and Dr. Jones. Had mentioned Dr. Jones's opinion that Lady Mordaunt was suffering from cataleptic hysteria. Did not agree with the opinion of Dr. Jones. Had seen two previous cases of ophthalmia, and considered that the child was bad for a long period—twenty-four days. Thought Lady Mordaunt was frequently shamming. She appeared to be shamming on the Monday week after the confinement; she would not speak. From that time to the 13th of May she appeared to be shamming more or less. She had no other symptoms except silence and a fixed look.

What is her present condition?—Her mind is gone, and she cannot apparently understand anything that is said to her. I found that out by watching her countenance when I spoke about incidents to her. It produced no change of countenance.

When I thought she was shamming there were signs of intelligence. I could make an impression upon her then, and could get monosyllables when I pressed her, but I could not make any impression on my last visit. I went into her room and found her sitting near to the fire place. I walked up to her and asked her how she was. She looked up, half laughed, and said, "How do you do?" She afterwards made no answer to my conversation.

By Lord Penzance—Did not consider the words in the letter of Sir Charles (read by his Lordship) to be a true statement of the case.

Several passages were read by his Lordship, but

Witness said he never noticed Lady Mordaunt in such a state as described, and he did not consider the statements true.

Dr. Jones said—I saw Lady Mordaunt. I have had experience in puerperal mania. When first I saw Lady Mordaunt, on the 10th of March, she was not suffering from that disease. Saw her on the 11th, 12th, and 26th, and she was not then suffering from puerperal mania. Went into the sick room on the 10th, and did not find her suffering from fever. When I questioned her she made no reply. I found that she had not taken food lately. There was neither puerperal mania nor puerperal fever. On the second occasion I thought that there was a hysterical condition dependent upon mental motion, which would account for her silence. There was a tacit and reticent condition, which could be accounted for if there was anything on her mind, and from what I afterwards heard I thought there was something on her mind. There were no signs of insanity. She was capable of understanding what was said to her, and intelligent in her replies. I saw her on various other occasions, and when I conversed with her sometimes she would not answer. On April 23rd I found her perfectly sane. She asked me my address, and I said, "Leamington." Lady Mordaunt asked me to write it down. She spoke of Sir Charles, and burst into tears. Witness related conversations which had occurred during the other visits to Lady Mordaunt. The impression conveyed to his mind was that she was generally unquestionably sane. All the peculiarities spoken of were produced by a weight upon her mind under a pressure of circumstances.

By Dr. Deane—Had never seen a deranged person exhibit symptoms such as those shown by her ladyship. Her state was quite inconsistent with any mania he ever saw. She did all sorts of strange things. Her ladyship, when he conversed, gave fractional replies to his questions. Her state on the 10th of July, at Worthing, was inconsistent with any form of mania considering the antecedent circumstances. She was suffering from cataleptic hysteria in March. When I first attended her I did not find her nervous system prostrated. On the last time I visited her she threw herself on the rug before me, and I could not get her to speak. I asked her to show me the drawing-room, and asked her to play, but she laid upon a sofa, and would not speak a word. Thought her condition was brought about by the unfortunate circumstances that had occurred.

Dr. Tyler Smith, physician, said—Puerperal mania is a disease perfectly well known. Believed there was no puerperal mania following Lady Mordaunt's confinement. Witness described the symptoms of and the results arising from this disease, and said puerperal mania was a madness caused by and following confinement. It is a very intractable malady, lasting a year or two. From the description I have heard from Mr. Orford and Mr. Jones, I should have no question as to their being right as to the absence of insanity at the time they speak of. I saw Lady Mordaunt in December, and formed the opinion that there was nothing in her state which could not be feigned. I considered her in a very bad state of health.

Cross-examined by Dr. Deane—It was a phase of puerperal mania either to be taciturn or excited. It is a common symptom of the patient to make self-accusations.

2. *The Case of Manslaughter at the Lancaster Asylum.*

The facts of the case are as follows:—William Wilson, the deceased, who was about 50 years of age, was admitted into the Lancaster Asylum on Wednesday, the 15th of December, and was found to labour under general paralysis. He was restless and sleepless the first