

utterances as gospel, not appreciating that a man may have hypertrophy of some brain-areas and atrophy of others, just as an athlete with hypertrophic shoulder-muscles may be feeble on his legs.

Lombroso, however, certainly does not fall into this category, and we may be sure that if he discovers that he has been duped he will as frankly own to this as to his beliefs.

A course of training of some few months under a professor of legerdemain should be prescribed to all scientists before entering on an investigation of mediumistic *séances* and haunted houses, and probably the number of conversions after such a course would be considerably reduced.

Professor Lombroso's beliefs imply that the laws of the universe governing every known activity, from the falling of a drop of water to the guidance of the stars in their courses, are set aside and overruled by brain action of a defective type for the most ridiculously puerile and purposeless results. If the Creator could be imagined thus to stultify His omnipotence by giving man the power of overruling the laws governing the universe, such a power would surely manifest itself in the most highly-developed men, and for objects that would teach mankind some really great truths in regard to man's knowledge of the universe, which is the end and aim of all science.

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*The Treatment of Insanity in Asylums.*

Medical critics, who have often an unseen axe to grind or an ancient grudge to gratify, are constantly ventilating in the public press or a medical journal the time-worn allegations of the want of scientific spirit in asylums.

One of these critics, in a recent contribution, begs the question as usual, in his opening paragraph, asserting that "in real medical treatment, directed to the causes, nature, and cure of insanity, very little has been done, very little is being done, and the methods found fertile in other fields are not being pursued," and he then goes on to explain why this is, from his point of view.

A critic who is so little acquainted with the medical literature of the day as to make the above assertion a basis of his contention, it may be argued, is too wanting in knowledge of his subject to need consideration.

An examination of his further utterances shows that he does possess some acquaintance with asylums, if even of somewhat remote date, and that his assumptions are not entirely due to mere want of information.

This critic is, or professes to be, ignorant of the work done by Drs. Bolton, Bruce, Campbell, Bevan Lewis, Mott, Orr, Ford Robertson, Rows, Turner, and a host of other workers, whose work is in evidence not only in this and all other medical journals, but in special archives, and occasionally in the *Reports of the Royal Society*; work, in fact, which in its originality, variety, and scientific method will compare favourably with the output of that produced by an equal number of medical men engaged in hospital practice. Indeed, if there are eliminated from the ranks of our specialty a large number of junior medical officers, who are mere birds of passage, it may be safely asserted that the contrast of scientific output would be in favour of the alienist in the public asylum.

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*Pathology in Asylums.*

The criticisms on the scientific work of asylum medical officers suggest that to remove the ignorance which prevails in regard to the investigations being made in asylums, especially in pathological matters, there should be a closer connection between the asylums and universities or medical colleges in this respect.

The clinical opportunities offered by asylums for the teaching of a general knowledge of mental diseases are very generally made use of, but the pathological side is almost entirely neglected. The pathological laboratories in connection with asylums are numerous; some of them are admirably equipped, and conducted by men whose repute is well established in Continental and American scientific circles, even if unknown to, or ignored by, our home critics. Prophets, as usual, are not without honour away from home.

The teaching of the pathology of the brain, etc., is urgently needed, and the Medico-Psychological Association, which has been so successful in obtaining the recognition of the value of its clinical material, should now devote its energies to pressing on the universities and medical colleges the urgent necessity