

least three days in each bath. Dr. Blackburn says that specimens thus prepared are more durable than wax models.

Case of Probable Tumour of the Pons.

Dr. Mary P. Jacobi reports the case of a child, aged ten years, with diffused motor disturbances, preservation of faradaic contractility, gradual enlargement of the head, moderate apathy of expression and disturbance of the intelligence, spasm of right external rectus, and double optic neuritis. She is of opinion that there is a tumour in the pons, because convulsions, marked or definite symptoms, monoplegic spasm or paralysis, hemiplegia, symptoms in the sphere of the motor oculi, headache, nystagmus, and vomiting are absent. The cerebellum is excluded on account of the development of motor paralysis, in addition to the original motor inco-ordination. The general march of symptoms, the bilateral character of the paralysis, the inco-ordination, and the absence of anæsthesia and pain have been observed in slow-growing tumours of the pons.

2. *Dutch Retrospect.*

By J. F. G. PIETERSEN, M.D.

The Dordrecht Asylum Report for the Year 1888.

Dr. F. M. Cowan, the senior physician, gives in a pamphlet of 112 pages the annual report of this institution for the insane, and includes in his publication a detailed account of the administration, as well as an elaborate *résumé* of the mental condition of the patients admitted and the post-mortem examinations conducted during the past year. He makes the same complaint to which we have constantly been treated in most of our own asylum reports, want of space and the difficulty in finding accommodation for the ever rapidly increasing insane population. The provision for 1,800 lunatics, out of a population of 911,534, for Southern Holland he regards as wholly inadequate. "It would," he says, "be worth our earnest consideration whether these old and decayed members of asylums, who require nought but good and careful supervision, could not be established in separate localities or habitations, such as almshouses, etc.;" acute cases and recent admissions, he holds, would thereby greatly be benefited, both with regard to accommodation and treatment. He next makes allusion to a series of weekly nursing lectures which, since October, 1888, he has introduced into this asylum, and already, at the date of his report, he speaks highly of the admirable results he has obtained by such a course. His asylum attendants have by his efforts been enabled to become thoroughly acquainted with the contents of Billroth's "Die Krankenpflege im Hause und Hospital," Florence Nightingale's "Notes on Nursing," and the "Handbook for

the Instruction of Attendants on the Insane," prepared by a sub-committee of the Medico-Psychological Association, text books which have formed the basis of his lectures. Massage has also largely been used, and he dwells on the possible employment of this means in the future as a method of cure; already has he found massage of the abdominal walls of value in the intractable constipation met with among the insane. The number of admissions for the year was 36—26 males and 10 females. The number of patients resident in the asylum was 200. The deaths were 13 (or a percentage of 6.5 of the number of inmates), and were mainly due to phthisis pulmonalis. He gives an elaborate series of tables dealing with the social status, religion, occupation, age, education, causation of mental affections and relapses of the admissions for the year, and a like list with regard to the deaths and discharges. Electricity, in the ordinary method, and as electric baths for suicidal cases, has been employed with varying result; and regarding Franklinisation, he gives as the results of his experiments "that while various patients experience an agreeable feeling of relief and improvement when under a positive current, the reversion of such induces a feeling of oppression and aggravation of their symptoms." In one case included in his clinical list, the galvanic current, both positive and negative, induced a return of aural hallucinations which had been absent for some time. Bronchitis appears to have been especially prevalent, ten per cent. of the inmates classified in his table of incidental affections having been subject thereto during the year. A successful operation for the removal of a large lipoma and a fractured radius were the only noteworthy surgical occurrences. With regard to the weight and weighing of patients, he makes some valuable observations, which our own asylum superintendents might with advantage take into consideration. The simple periodical weighing of patients can serve only one good end, namely, the insight it gives us as to the proportionate decrease or increase in weight of each individual patient. To establish a true proportionate relation between individuals when taking into consideration their body weight, we must, as was pointed out by Dr. Stephenson in the *Lancet* (Vol. ii., No. 12, 1883), take into account the height and rate of growth in man. Now, this co-efficient of weight, as he calls it, is expressed by the formula $\frac{L^2}{G}$ (where L = height, and G = weight), and the formula was obtained by observing that during growth the weight increases in direct proportion to the square of the body length. This co-efficient of weight would be a far more valuable comparative quantity than the mere body weight minus any note of the body length. The number of recoveries was 12 (or 6 per cent. of the total number of inmates), those discharged not recovered nine (or 4.5 per cent.). The rest of the report deals with the detailed account of the mental and physical condition of the admissions, and the post-mortem examinations. Among the former the most interesting case was that of a young woman (æt. 23) suffering from

delusional mania, with hallucinations of sight and hearing, who was subjected to hypnotism about one month after her admission. To quote Dr. Cowan's own account of the case: "She was brought into the hypnotic state for the first time on August 3rd, and within twelve minutes she was in a fit condition for suggestion, by which it was intimated to her that the following night her sleep (which had been broken and disturbed) would last no less than nine hours, and that she would be freed from her nightly visual hallucinations. Success attended this first experiment, for her sleep was deep and refreshing, but during the half-hour preceding it she was still subject to the visual hallucinations. Encouraged by this favourable result, the hypnotic state was re-induced, and the absence and disappearance of her hallucinations were suggested; it was only, however, on August 12th, after eight experiments, that she communicated to us the fact that she no longer saw visions, etc., in the dark, and that the voices were becoming indistinct, but on the other hand there was an increase in the 'unintelligible mumbling and whispering' she was subject to. From that date she was hypnotized thrice a week, and suggestion employed. Up to August 30th the 'whispering' continued, but on that day it also disappeared; and so terrified was the patient that these 'nasty voices' would return, that she begged for a continuation of the experiments. From the 2nd of September to the 30th of that month she was hypnotized for suggestion twice a week, after which latter date they were wholly discontinued. The total number of experiments was twenty-eight, and to test the value of this method no other medicament of any kind was employed." Sulphonal, employed in a case of acute mania, was unsuccessful in inducing sleep after the first night; no other experiments appear to have been made with this drug. The most noteworthy of the post-mortem examinations was that of a girl (æ. 20), who for fifteen years had been subject to attacks of hystero-epilepsy. Here there was found sclerosis and diminution in size of the left pes-hippocampi, some œdema cerebri, diminution and anæmia of grey matter of the cortex, gyri atrophied. Sommer's theory of the association of sensitive aura with sclerosis of the cornua ammonis was not verified in this case, but the fact that the patient died of pulmonary phthisis gives support to the opinion urged by Grasset (*v.* "Brain," Vol. vii., "The Relations of Hysteria with the Scrofulous and Tubercular Diathesis," and his "Traité pratique des maladies du système nerveux," Ed. troisième., p. 977) as to the connection between nervous affections generally, and especially hysteria and tuberculosis. In commenting on the religious instruction of the insane, he urges the necessity of care and tact on the part of ministers attached to or visiting asylums, and the knowledge they should possess of individualizing their instruction. "Religion," he says, "deals not entirely with threats and punishments, but gives also a due promise of reward for those brave of spirit. Who could be so lacking in knowledge of his fellow-man—nay, more, who

could be so barbarous as to demonstrate to some self-accusing melancholic the gloomy and severe aspects of religion, and to debar from his gaze the bright and hopeful lights thereof?" How many ministers of the Gospel have we in our own asylums who can with truth aver that they study the mental condition of those under their care? They deal out, it is true, weekly or daily instruction in their services and visitations, but they generalize such instruction; they speak to a body of hearers who oftentimes, as we ourselves have witnessed, obtain anything but consolation from the doctrines impressed on them. The patients appear to have been well employed and well amused, and consequently isolation and restraint have seldom been resorted to. According to the tables, 55 per cent. of the inmates were employed on an average daily in various forms of work, a result that speaks volumes for the admirable administration of this institution. We miss from this report any statement as to the expenditure per patient, an item which would have been of much value for comparison with our own asylums. The number of attendants (15 male attendants to 105 patients, and 13 female to 95 patients) appears small, but we suppose in cases of urgency drafts are made from the number of artisans, etc., employed, which is, for so small an institution, exceptionally large (21 in all of various callings). We cannot close this review without complimenting Dr. Cowan not only on his admirable and systematic report, but also on the evidently satisfactory condition into which he has brought the working of his asylum.

Report of the Meerenberg Asylum for the year 1888. Dr. C. J. VAN PERSYN. *Report of the Utrecht Asylum for the year 1888.* Dr. A. T. MOLL.

The acquisition of some useful information is eagerly anticipated by every one of us, and thus the annual publication from the pen of Dr. Van Persyn is welcomed and read with pleasure. The report of one of the very few satisfactory asylums in Holland cannot but be regarded with a feeling of deep interest. The new building by which the Meerenberg institution has been extended and enlarged was put into use in the latter half of last year, when the first transfer of twenty male and as many female patients from the old to the new section of the asylum was effected. The removal has gradually proceeded, while, in addition, fifty patients were transferred thence from Medemblik. The number of inmates has thus gradually increased, and Dr. Van Persyn reiterates the sinister foreboding that at the end of the current year we shall once more be face to face with the problem of overcrowding. Again must we draw attention to the error which has led to the erection of a limited and circumscribed mass of buildings, extension of or addition to which is always most difficult, frequently impossible. Had the block or cottage system been adopted in its place, it would always have been possible to have increased the

number of such cottages, etc, whenever increase of space was demanded. Accepting the fact that 2 per 1,000 of the populace is affected with insanity, and that the population of North Holland is estimated at 750,000, it was to be anticipated that a number of beds amounting to 1,200 should be deemed inadequate. That the inmates of the new section necessitated an increase in the number of the nursing staff, and that much effort was expended in finding suitable persons for this office, are facts referred to on p. 5 of the report, where he says:—"All these inexperienced hands gave a good deal of trouble; many of them have already been discharged." The closure of the public thoroughfare between the downs and the Meerenberg valley must be considered a great improvement. It was a serious inconvenience always to be overlooked by a curiosity-loving public, while the advantage accrues, as Dr. Van Persyn points out, that an extension of exercise ground is thereby afforded the patients. . . . Such of us as appreciate the doubtful blessings of the Lunacy Act of 1884 (Holland), and who know how to deplore the reckless waste of ink expended on useless clerical work, must with satisfaction note the decision of the committee in increasing the salary of the staff for their extra labour. The remarks on p. 48 regarding alcoholic abuse as a cause of psychic disturbances are important, since twenty per cent. of the admissions are included under this category. The further report, moreover, of these patients is by no means a hopeful one. Dr. Van Walsem contributes to the report an admirably handled article on *Dementia Paralytica* (General Paralysis of the Insane), which will be read with much interest (pp. 51-59). It shows Dr. Van Walsem to be a follower of the doctrine which Jendrassik has endeavoured to promulgate, namely, that *tabes dorsalis* and general paralysis are identical affections dependent on an involuntary atrophy of the cerebral cortex. There is undoubtedly much that is misleading in this hypothesis as set forth by Jendrassik, and while Dr. Van Walsem demonstrates facts which demand explanation from Jendrassik in the light of his theory (such, for instance, as the fact that the decussation between the posterior and postero-lateral columns of the cord and the cortex cerebri remain intact), he wisely implicates himself no further than by merely declaring in favour of this novel doctrine. At p. 66 he returns to this question where he endeavours to demonstrate by this theory the presence of locomotor ataxy, but fails post-mortem to find any cord degeneration whatsoever. Many readers will hardly coincide with the view taken on pp. 68-72 in classifying the case there cited as one of mania, but the author no doubt has experienced the difficulty we all have encountered in including all mental affections under a fixed categorical classification. A contribution such as the above is instructive, not only in that it raises the question of classification of a set of complex symptoms, but also exemplifies the difficulty and doubt we shall always feel to which section to allot any given disorder, so long as psychic disturbances do not allow of official

classification. This valuable contribution to the treatment of the insane in Holland concludes with an allusion to religious service and instruction, physical care, modes of amusement, and methods of restraint.

Dr. Moll has done good service to the readers of his report by, as he notifies in his prefatory remarks, combining the post-mortem account with the clinical report of each case. The nursing staff appears still to suffer from change—at least the author makes this representation, with, at the same time, the complaint that the vacancies cannot be filled up so easily among the female as among the male attendants. One must be an alienist to appreciate to the full what a painful sensation is experienced by an attempt at suicide such as is described on p. 25. Fortunately the attempt was in this case frustrated. Dr. Moll also makes complaint of overcrowding. For the nonce it would appear that some relief might be found for this evil in the advantage offered by the Groningen contracts, but this would be but a palliative measure, applications will again and again have to be rejected. When shall we in Holland experience that it is necessary properly to provide for the treatment of our insane? The communicated clinical reports are well worth reading. The most important features of the medical history are notified in short and succinct terms, following which comes a brief history of the affection, while in sundry instances the author embellishes these with his remarks and observations. Especially of interest are the cases mentioned on pp. 33 and 37. Regarding the first-named, it is much to be regretted that no notes of the post-mortem could be communicated (the patient died out of the asylum), seeing that it is highly probable that this was no typical paralytic affection, but the proof is unfortunately wanting. On p. 43 Dr. Luchtman has communicated *in extenso* the course of a post-partum psychosis, aggravated by typhoid symptoms (wherein the temperature rose to 104° F., and the pulse ran up to 150 per minute), incontinence of urine and fæces and delirium. The case resulted in perfect cure after six months' residence in the asylum. From the same observer we have also a description of a case of catalepsy in a patient with marked hereditary predisposition. Dr. Luchtman evidently waxes indignant over the unsatisfactory information supplied regarding some of the patients, as well as over the indifference with which relatives and friends sometimes regard the most important symptoms. To hope for aught to the contrary will, it must be feared, be only a waste of energy. A contribution to the complication of cardiac affection with mental disturbance is given by the author on p. 70, and a post-syphilitic psychosis on p. 71. On p. 73 Dr. Timmer gives a biographical sketch of a patient in whom without doubt a perverted education had formed one of the links in the chain of psychic disturbance from which he was suffering. A case of mania, alternating with stupor, and later on with furious excitement, and resulting after two and a half years in

recovery, and a case of epilepsy in which psychic disturbance frequently took the place of the ordinary seizure, are also dealt with *in extenso*. Another interesting case is that of a general paralytic, so diagnosed, but in whom all the symptoms disappeared with subsequent complete recovery. He was admitted on March 19th, 1888, and became convalescent in one month, while on June 18th, 1889, or after 15 months' residence, he was deemed sufficiently recovered to be discharged. Was this a case of true recovery, or was it one of those forms of general paralysis in which widely intermittent remissions occur? An anomalous type of the progress of a case of general paralysis forms the last clinical picture of this series.

Both reports can earnestly be recommended for perusal to such as take an interest in asylum management. One word more as to restraint, mention of which is made in both reports. An English writer, Sankey, says: "If the practice lingers in any establishment still, it is a proof, I consider, of incompetence. Non-restraint has gradually spread where the physicians are the most enlightened." When we accept this dictum of our British colleague, each one of us who has the pleasure of knowing Drs. Van Persyn and Moll must draw the deduction that no mechanical restraint is in vogue either at Meerenberg or Utrecht, and so we find it. At Utrecht Asylum only was the strait-jacket employed—once for a man for surgical reasons, and once for a female patient. I recall to mind a conversation I had with a restrainer as to non-restraint. When it was urged by me that non-restraint was certainly capable of being carried out, since at Meerenberg no need apparently existed for strait-jackets, he replied that it was very easy to say that, but it would perhaps be as well for me, by actual observation for a month or so, to convince myself that the assertion was strictly true. Arguments of so abject a nature it is naturally useless to combat. No cases of suicide happened either at Meerenberg or Utrecht during the year.

3. *French Retrospect.*

By D. HACK TUKE, M.D.

International Congress of Mental Science.

We abridge from the "Annales Medico-Psychologiques" (Sept., 1889) M. Ritti's notice of the International Congress of Mental Science, which held its meetings at the College of France, Paris, from the 5th to the 10th of August, 1889.

It will occupy a very honourable place in the history of psychiatry during the latter part of this century. By the number of its adherents, French and foreign—in number more than one hundred and sixty—by the interest of its works, by the importance of the resolutions