

3. Whether used exclusively or not, has the Indian corn always been undoubtedly sound, or has it always, often, or occasionally (especially during severe seasons or during scarcity of work) been of inferior quality or really bad? In the last case indicate degree and reason of badness.

4. Does the family buy the corn ready ground or not? In the latter case inquire if the quantity they get ground lasts a short or a long time, and if they keep the flour in a dry or in a damp place where it may easily spoil. In the former case inquire into the state of the corn when bought, and for this reason examine also the sellers.

5. Is the corn cooked daily into polenta, or is it made into cakes and bread to last several days?

6. When the flour is kept some length of time, inquire if it loses its flavour and becomes difficult of digestion.

7. Is pellagra hereditary in this family?

8. Are the members of the family afflicted with pellagra also affected by other diseases, such as scurvy, malaria, or have they been?

9. What are the hygienic conditions of the dwelling, the drinking water, the state of the soil, &c., where the family lives?

10. Do there exist, to the certain knowledge of the medical officer, any individuals who, without any hereditary tendency to pellagra, have yet shown undoubted signs of it without ever having lived on Indian corn damaged in any degree?

11. Do there exist any individuals who, without hereditary tendency to pellagra, and who never, or at least not recently, lived on Indian corn in any form, have yet exhibited signs of it?

According to the latest ministerial statistics, which, however, are not entirely reliable, there has been a great increase of pellagra in the last two years—from 97,855 in 1879 to 104,048 in 1881. This is entirely owing to the enormous increase in the Venetian provinces (from 29,836 to 55,993). In all the other provinces except Liguria there has been a marked reduction. But Dr. Tamburini thinks this extraordinary difference may be due to great inaccuracy. He is able to state as a fact that in Reggio this decrease is not real, for the pellagri admitted to the lunatic asylum during 1879-81 have not diminished. There were 53 admissions in 1879 and 80 in 1881.

#### 4. *German Retrospect.*

By W. W. IRELAND, M.D.

“Tödtung des Dienstherrn im Zustand Krankhafter Bewusstlosigkeit (Friedreich's Blatt für Gerichtliche Medicin,” 4 Heft, 1881).

“Tods Schlag im Affect, Zweifelhafte Geisteszustand (Epilepsie und dadurch bedingte Krankhafte Gemuthsreizbarkeit) des Thäters. Separatabdruck aus der Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie.” Band xxxvii., von Professor v Kraft-Ebing in Graz.

“Zur Conträren Sexualempfindung in Klinisch, forensischer Hinsicht. Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie,” Band xxxviii., von Professor v Kraft-Ebing.

These three papers, reprints from medical journals, show that there is no abatement in that activity which has given so many valuable contributions to our knowledge of insanity and forensic medicine. In the first two papers on the list Dr. Kraft-Ebing records two perplexing cases where murder was committed in conditions of mental derangement and irritability associated with epilepsy. The first case is so curious that we venture to give a short sketch of it, though it is difficult to preserve the most instructive features with a diminished outline.

St. was a man forty-five years old. He had a small head, and was stated to be subject to fits from infancy, though as he grew up they became unfrequent. He was of low intelligence, spoke little, and only used short and easy words. He had served as a soldier, then worked as a miner, and finally became a day labourer. He had a weak as well as a small head, was subject to vertigo, and was known to be easily affected by a small quantity of liquor. He was sometimes extravagant in his conduct, saw visions of the devil, and a naked woman which seemed to amuse him much. According to his own account he had experienced short attacks of mental disorder for the last fifteen years, sometimes once a year, sometimes oftener. Amongst the delusions to which he had been subject he remembered that it appeared to him he flew round the earth or was in heaven, and had seen God the Father, the Virgin and a little boy who squirted water upon him. He saw shadowy figures, whom he took to be poor souls in purgatory, and heard the voices crying, “Help me.” He often prayed for poor souls. Sometimes he was driven to run through thick and thin, over mountain and valley. He thought that a woman, whose feet and white gown he saw, called him to follow her. He never showed any real inclination for the other sex. After these attacks, which lasted above a day, he felt heavy and wearied.

He had been employed on a farm for six weeks, but gave up his service saying that he was ill and wanted to go into the hospital. He complained that his master threatened to strike him. About nine o'clock in the morning he went into a public house and drank about two glasses of schnaps (an inferior kind of spirit used by the poorer classes in place of brandy), and about a tumbler of beer. Three or four hours after he was seen to take a napkin of trifling value from some clothes hung out to dry, which he tied round his waist. A man came and took it from him, striking him several times, when St. fell upon him with a knife. The man took refuge beside a dog chained to a kennel on which St. recoiled, but kept shouting in front of the house. A butcher then came out and struck St. with a lash several times, and then ran away, when St. tried to stab him with the knife. He was thought to be intoxicated, and wandered about the road till

a man driving a cart took him in, when he fell asleep in the cart. About half-past seven o'clock in the evening his master met him walking with a knife in his hand, and tried to take it from him, when the man stabbed him in the left thigh, and walked away slowly across the fields. The wounded man died in about five minutes from hæmorrhage. St. was arrested next morning in a town about eight miles off. He said that he had no recollection of having injured any one the day before. He had awakened in the middle of a field, feeling heavy in the head. He had fallen several times in his way to the town. As it was suspected that he was simulating, St. was sent to the hospital at Graz to be kept under observation. During the year in which he resided there he was not observed to have any epileptic fits, though occasionally morose, confused, and depressed, complaining of vertigo. This was accompanied by pallor of the face and trembling of the head. The medical men who studied his case regarded him as a person who had commenced life with a diseased organism, subject to epileptic fits and periods of mental confusion, during one of which he committed the murder. It was not thought that the spirits which he had drunk were the cause of the peculiar condition, though they might have aggravated it. The quantity taken seemed too small to have kept up a state of intoxication of above ten hours, though it was admitted that he was easily affected with liquor. It seems to have been opined that he had drunk no more liquor since nine in the morning. The people in the public-house noticed that he had a wild look when he entered, but they believed him to be the worse for what he had drunk, though he neither staggered nor was affected in his speech.

The second paper records the case of an Italian who stabbed a comrade in a fit of passion. The question discussed is whether the *iracundia morbosa* of epilepsy exempts a man, in whole or in part, from the responsibility of a criminal action? To such a question a general answer cannot be given. In the case detailed, Dr. Krafft-Ebing was of opinion that the man's responsibility was much diminished, if not entirely abolished, by the pathological condition accompanying the epilepsy.

Dr. Krafft-Ebing's third paper is a contribution to a subject which has several times been noticed in the German Retrospect. It is affirmed by some writers that there are male human beings who have in all respects the same sexual feelings towards men which ordinary men bear towards women, and that there are also females who fall in love with women. This abnormality of taste is distinguished from the pæderasty and Lesbian passion of the ancients by the indifference of the subject towards the opposite sex as well as his attraction towards his own sex. It is held that these ill-starred persons, to whom the name *Urninge* has been given, are the victims of an inborn tendency which they cannot alter, and which it is difficult, or perhaps impossible, to resist. It has been gravely proposed that the relations founded upon

this abnormal taste should be sanctioned, or at least tolerated by law. Of seventeen cases thirteen had symptoms of insanity, more or less pronounced, and only one was free from all trace of neurosis.\*

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#### PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

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##### REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH† ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held on Wednesday, August 2nd, at the Hall of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, Professor Gairdner presiding. The following members and visitors were present:—Drs. J. T. Callcott, J. A. Campbell, T. A. Chapman, Clark, T. S. Clouston, E. Maziere Courtenay, H. C. Gill, J. Tregelles Hingston, C. K. Hitchcock, M. D. Macleod, G. W. Mould, H. Hayes Newington, J. H. Paul, J. A. Philip, H. T. Pringle, H. Rayner, A. Robertson, James Rutherford, G. H. Savage, R. Smith, J. B. Spence, Seip (Penn.), D. Hack Tuke, A. E. Turnbull, A. B. Urquhart, T. Outterson Wood, &c. Dr. Scott Orr, President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, was also present.

Dr. HACK TUKE, the retiring President, in resigning the chair, said that his duty was of a very simple and agreeable character, although when he used the word agreeable he must confess that it was not without some regret that he vacated the office, for his presidential year had been a very pleasant year to him, bringing him, as it had done, into more direct relations with the officers and with the members generally of the Association. The feeling of regret was, however, mitigated by the knowledge that he would be succeeded by so distinguished a man as Professor Gairdner. He supposed that, like the old Roman consuls, every president desired that his year of office should be signalized by some marked event, and that there should be some achievement during that period. He hoped that his own year of office would be always associated with the meeting of the International Medical Congress in London. That was a time of great interest and importance, and he certainly felt it a great responsibility to be their representative at a time when that meeting was held. There was also, in addition, that which he hoped might prove an achievement during the year. The Committee for the revision of the Statistical Tables had repeatedly met, and whatever they had effected, they certainly had laboured pretty hard to bring those tables to a more satisfactory form. He would say, therefore, that if what he might call the "Revised Version" of the Statistical Tables was agreed to at the present meeting, he should venture to claim that as an achievement which had taken place during his year of office. An old rule of the Association required that the retiring President should introduce the President-elect. He felt that it would be an impertinence for him to introduce any one so well known as Professor Gairdner. All he would say was that the Professor must now pass through the highest stage of evolution, while he himself, passing through that of dissolution must as President vanish from their sight.

Professor GAIRDNER, in taking the chair, said that he was very conscious that the honour which had been done him was due more to the regard of some of his old pupils among them than to any personal merits of his own, and upon

\* Press of matter prevents our resuming here the notice of Goltz's work.

† The Association was established in 1841—forty-one years ago, but the annual meetings have in some instances been omitted.