

COMMUNICATIONS.

Dr. TREVELYAN, Leeds, then read a paper on "The Permanence and Value of 'Dry Brain' Preparations," and he showed specimens. He expressed his preference for those preserved by Laskowsky's method.

In the ensuing general discussion Dr. MENZIES expressed the great obligation of the Association for the most interesting and instructive paper and exhibits. Dr. Menzies asked whether these dry specimens were of equal value to plaster casts of fresh brains, and whether there was likely to be unequal shrinking in the process of drying.

Dr. TREVELYAN replied that the shrinking was equal and general, and that he found real specimens which could be handled and pulled about were preferable to casts, especially for teaching purposes, as the student so obtained a much more memorable impression.

Dr. RICE showed a pathological specimen of a remarkably large aneurism of the cerebral artery, and gave a very interesting description of the clinical features which the case had presented during life.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, and for his hospitality to the members.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS AT MADRID.

SECTION OF NEUROLOGY, MENTAL DISEASES, AND CRIMINAL ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE meetings of this section were held in the Royal Library and Museum under the presidency of M. José Maria Esquerdo y Zaragoza. A small room, in which were placed glass cases containing ancient manuscripts, was assigned to this section, and it was necessary to pass through a room occupied by another section in order to reach it. However, there were no paintings on the walls, as in some of the rooms devoted to the sections, to distract the attention. The first meeting took place on Friday morning, April 24th, when the president took the chair at nine o'clock. According to the general programme, which was handed to each member, ten reports and sixty-six communications were to be read, but it was impossible to carry out this arrangement, as there was not sufficient time allowed for it. No meetings were held on three afternoons; the reception by the King at the Palace on Friday, the Municipal Garden Party in the Buen Retiro Park on Tuesday, and the Royal Garden Party in the Palace Gardens on Wednesday took place about three o'clock, and, as every member of the Congress wished to attend these functions, it was of no use having a meeting of the section. In addition, Dr. Julian Calleja, the President of the Congress, wished to show the institution for epileptics of San José, which will be described later on, to as many members as possible, and the excursion there was fixed for Monday afternoon. Thus there remained only five mornings at which papers could be read from nine to twelve o'clock and one afternoon, and the consequence of this was that many papers had to be taken as read. One great defect in this, as well as in other sections, was that no notice was put up stating the subject of the paper that was being read and the name of the author, so that, especially when the reader of the paper was a Spaniard, it was impossible to find out what was going on. Every day a journal was published giving the names of the papers that were to be read in the different sections, but as they were not always taken in the order in which they were printed, much confusion was created.

Of the ten "reports," which were considered of more importance than the "communications," the most interesting were those (1) by M. Bianchi, of Naples, on a "Centre of Projection and Association in the Brain according to the Determinations of Actual Pathological Anatomy;" (2) by MM. Martinez and Lombroso, of Turin, on "The Intervention of Psychiatry in the Reformatory Treatment of Delinquents;" (3) by Dr. Galiana, of Madrid, on "Toxic and Infectious Insanities;" and (4) by Dr. Pregowski, of Heidelberg, on "The Affection described sometimes as Periodic Neurasthenia, sometimes as a Circulatory Psychosis." Eleven authors had sent abstracts of their papers in French, and these were printed and arrived about eleven o'clock on the first morning on which the section met. Dr. Galiana gave the conclusions at which he had arrived with regard to

mental degeneration and alcoholism, and respecting syphilitic insanity. Under the latter heading he considered the relation of syphilis to general paralysis, and said he was of opinion that general paralysis was not caused by syphilis. The only ground for his opinion seemed to be that he had seen cases of this disease in which there was no history of syphilis. Dr. Pregowski believed that the affection which he described was due to pathological modifications of the circulatory system, and more especially to spasm of the cutaneous vessels.

It is impossible to mention all the "communications," but some of them may be briefly noticed.

Dr. SUTHERLAND, Deputy Commissioner of Lunacy in Scotland, read a paper, which was illustrated by maps and diagrams, on the "Geographical Distribution of Lunacy in Scotland and Ireland." He thought that so many imbeciles under five years of age dying of neglect, injudicious feeding, and infectious disease in urban and rural areas accounted for the different ratios of insanity which prevailed in those areas. In the urban districts the ratio was 30 per 10,000, and in the rural districts 90 per 10,000. The mortality of children under five years of age was the reverse of this, being three times as great in urban as in rural areas.

Dr. GUTZMANN, of Berlin, read a paper on "Neurasthenia and Troubles of Speech," the latter being divided into (1) loss of memory and loss of the faculty of association of ideas, and (2) spasm or ataxy of the motor part of speech. The first class improved under the general treatment of neurasthenia, but the second must be treated by special exercises.

Dr. LEMOS, of Oporto, read a paper on "The Evolution of Delirious Ideas in some cases of the Anxious Form of Chronic Melancholia." Sometimes this form of melancholia turned into a special form of secondary paranoia, with ideas of negation, immortality, enormity, and grandeur, but the psychological processes in these delirious conceptions were not apparently always the same. Sometimes the ideas of immortality, of enormity, and grandeur of anxious melancholia closely approached the hypochondriacal delirium and negation which is ordinarily observed in these patients.

Dr. MANUEL IGLESIAS Y DIAZ, of Madrid, read a paper on "Pseudo-Criminal Lunatics in Spain," that is, persons who are insane and are guilty of legally punishable acts or omissions, and persons who become insane while before the courts or after conviction. About one fourth of the 472 cases which had occurred during the last five years were given up to their friends as guilty of minor offences, and the remainder were required by law to be kept in the ordinary lunatic asylums. There were, in the author's opinion, objections to this practice, and he preferred to have lunacy pavilions attached to prisons.

Dr. L. VON FRANKL-HOCHWART, of Vienna, contributed a paper on "Pseudo-sclerosis," and gave the history of a case which he had watched for eleven years. The patient, a man aged forty-two years, died of cancer of the stomach. At the autopsy the only lesion of the brain and spinal cord was the existence of a considerable number of granulations of Pacchioni. The author did not believe in the opinion held by the Charcot school that pseudo-sclerosis was a manifestation of hysteria. Pseudo-sclerosis resembled multiple sclerosis in many ways, but several symptoms which frequently occurred in the latter disease were very rare in the former affection. Mental affection, however, was often very marked in pseudo-sclerosis.

Dr. FLETCHER BEACH read a paper on the "Care and Treatment of Epileptics in England." The author said that although epilepsy had existed from the time of Hippocrates, the first institution for the colony treatment of epileptics in England was only built fourteen years ago. There were two classes of cases to be cared for in asylums or colonies, the insane and the sane epileptics. He passed in review the dispositions made by various authorities since 1874 to ameliorate the condition of the insane epileptics, and described the measures which many authorities propose to take in order to care for and treat them. With regard to the latter cases, he described the institutions at Maghull and Godalming, Surrey, and the colony for epileptics at Chalfont, to which he was one of the physicians, and mentioned that another colony for the care and treatment of sane epileptics was in course of erection by the Lewis trustees at Chelford, Lancashire. Dr. Bower, who was present, discussed this paper.

On Monday afternoon a visit was made to the San José Institution for poor epileptics who are not insane, imbecile, nor idiotic. It is situated some distance from Madrid on a large table-land, a considerable height above the level of the sea. It was founded by the Marquis of Vallejo, who gave a large part of his fortune in order to build an institution for epileptics in memory of his son, who died of epilepsy. The institution consists of eleven pavilions, five of which are used respectively as an administrative block, a chapel, a home for the monks who attend to and, if necessary, nurse the epileptics, a kitchen, and an infirmary, to which is attached an operating theatre, which was fitted up with the most modern appliances. The dispensary contained drugs of all kinds, not only for the treatment of epilepsy, but apparently for all kinds of diseases. Of the other pavilions, two are for boys, two for young men, one for those of faulty habits, and one for dangerous cases. In two of the pavilions there were schools and workshops, and in the basement of another there was a gymnasium. The institution is intended to accommodate 120 male patients, but at present there are only 55 in residence, some of whom are boys. The pavilions are separated from one another by plantations, but an unnecessary feature of the institution was a very high wall which surrounded the pavilions. In England this is not considered necessary, and as no patients were to be admitted if insane, imbecile, or idiotic there appeared to be no reason for it. The patients seemed to be well fed, and were happy and contented.

On the same evening the President of the section, who is the proprietor of the Maison de Fous, gave a banquet to the members of the section in the dining-hall of the institution. It is not, as may be imagined, an asylum for idiots, but a private asylum for the treatment of the insane. Bread is made in the establishment, and the cattle are put to death in a slaughterhouse fitted up for the purpose. Dr. Esquerdo possesses vineyards, and makes the wine which is used by himself and the patients. The writer of this notice had no opportunity of seeing the wards and dormitories, but he was informed by Dr. Macdonald, of New York, that the arrangements made for the patients were much inferior to those in use in English and American asylums.

The members of the Association may be pleased to hear that three of their number were made Honorary Presidents of the section. Dr. Wiglesworth, our President, whom the papers persisted in calling Ughiwerth, or some such name, was elected an Honorary President at the commencement of the work of the section, Dr. Sutherland was elected and took the chair after reading his paper, and Dr. Fletcher Beach was elected on the concluding day, and took the chair for two hours until called on to read his paper. During the time he occupied the chair, among other papers that were read two were by Americans, Dr. Hughes, of St. Louis, and Dr. Hoppe, of Cincinnati; the former's paper was entitled "New Views of the Virile Reflex," and the latter's "A Contribution to the Study of the Cortical Origin of Disturbances of Sensation."

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES FOR SCOTTISH ASYLUM WORKERS.

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY THE SCOTTISH DIVISION OF THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

1. Provision has been made by the Legislature for the granting of Superannuation Allowances to the Officers and Servants of the County and Borough Asylums in England. (53 Vict., Ch. 5, Sect. 280, 281, and 282.)
2. Similar statutory provision has been made in the case of the District Asylums in Ireland. (53 and 54 Vict., Ch. 31; also Loc. Gov. [Ireland] Act, 1898, Sect. 83 [13] and Sect. 84 [13]).
3. The Directors of the Chartered Asylums in Scotland are also empowered to grant Superannuation Allowances. (29 and 30 Vict., Ch. 51, Sect. 25.)
4. In other departments of the public service generally the Superannuation of Officials is provided for.