

I wish to remark at once that she had neither heard nor read of metalloscopy, nor had any presentiment what the application of the metal plates might mean. It must be further mentioned that I naturally resolved to select such a method of experimenting, that, on the one hand, I was protected and secure against every fraud and illusion on the part of the patient, and that on the other, the powerful influence of imagination, of heightened attention and expectation, could be excluded. The cardinal importance of both these points needs not to be specially insisted on—everybody knows that, with the hysterical especially, the morbid inclination to create attention and awaken interest is a fruitful source of intentional and unintentional delusions and marvellous stories.

Thus, examples enough are found in illustration of the great power of imagination, and of the attention which is carried to the pitch of exaggeration—the “expectant attention” of English authors—in their normal physiological degree as well as in morbid proportions, as may be noticed in the not scanty literature of this subject; in connection with which I refer only to the newest, and certainly the most complete work of this kind by Hack Tuke.*

(To be continued.)

Case of old Nodule in Left Hemisphere. Dr. F. NEELSEN
("Arch. für Klinische Medicin," Bd. xxiv., p. 483).
Contributed by EDWARD G. GEOGHEGAN, M.D.

This case which is an interesting contribution to the study of the psycho-motor centres is an example of an old encapsuled nodule in the left hemisphere, resulting from a lesion in childhood, which destroyed the superior parietal convolution, and produced atrophy of the superior portion of the postcentral and para-central convolutions. The right leg was paralysed, but regained its function to a certain extent, while the right arm became completely useless. The paralysed extremities atrophied. There was atrophy of the right lateral and of the left anterior columns of the spinal cord. Descending degeneration of the pyramidal tracts.

This nodule was about the size of a cherry, and, in addition to the destruction of the above-mentioned gyri, had dislocated

* "Illustrations of the Influence of the Mind upon the Body in Health and Disease." London: Churchill.

the surrounding convolutions, bringing the gyrus angularis to lie internally to the supramarginal, and immediately posterior to the postcentral. It consisted of chalk and cholesterin chiefly. The cells of Betz were completely degenerated on the left side.

In regard to the localization, this case quite agrees with Ferrier's observations, and goes against Hitzig, who places the centre in the præcentral gyrus. It supports Charcot, too, as regards the implication of the paracentral lobule in a permanent paralysis of the leg and arm. Neelsen explains the partial recovery of the leg by Soltmann's observation, that very young dogs, deprived of the motor centres of one hemisphere, can, after a time, move the legs of both sides with the remaining centre.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

Nowell v. Williams.

"Diseased nature oftentimes breaks forth
In strange eruptions."

HEN. IV., *Act iii., Sc. 1.*

It is astonishing how a medical case, simple in its character, obvious in its nature, and of which the diagnosis does not present serious difficulty to a mental physician, may become lost in a fog, and obscured by a number of irrelevant questions, when it comes into a Court of Law. Conflicting interests, the contention of lawyers, the technicalities which bar the admission of this or that particular fact in evidence, which is important in a scientific investigation—in which truth alone is the object of the inquirer—the mass of details which are crowded into the case, the probable ignorance and obtuseness of some of those who have to form a judgment; the necessarily imperfect medical knowledge of counsel, and also of the Judge himself; the prejudice of the public in regard to asylums for the insane—all these circumstances combine to prevent a dispassionate and scientific inquiry into a case of alleged lunacy. Under such circumstances, the wonder perhaps is not that juries often blunder on questions of lunacy, but that they manage, as often as they do, to blunder on the right side. So has it been in the action of *Nowell v. Williams*—in which the plaintiff sought to recover damages for false imprisonment on the ground that he had been confined in Northumberland House, he being at the time sane. He was in medical practice in Cornwall Road, London. He passed the College of Surgeons and the Hall in 1860-61, and became L.R.C.P. (Edin.) in 1865. His age is 43.