

position of medical superintendents from any chance of pension. The very fact of so large an amount as two-thirds of their pay, and allowance being allowed them after fifteen years' service, would cause Boards of Governors at once to reject any claim to pension in their case. An attendant might by chance be given £40 a year on retirement, but the chances of a physician obtaining £400 from a board, constituted as public asylum board, would be, after a few years, if the power of refusing was left to them, simply hopeless.

Dr. DUNCAN suggested that a petition be drawn up to the Chief Secretary, praying that the Bill be taken into consideration by the Government as to whether they would not insist on retaining the power of having some voice in the superannuation of their own officers.

Dr. COURTENAY seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

PELLAGRA.

In the neurological Section of the annual gathering of German Naturalists and Physicians, held at Wiesbaden, Sept., 1887, Dr. Tuczek, of Marburg, presented an able and elaborate report on the nervous disturbances witnessed in Pellagra, of which we hope to make further use, but in the meantime it may be stated that Dr. Tuczek based his report on a study of Pellagra in northern Italy, which he had made during the months of April and May, 1887. About three hundred and fifty patients had come under his notice, and eight autopsies. Amongst the psychoses observed in Pellagra, melancholia stood first, and in particular the variety named melancholia with stupor. In respect of other cerebral symptoms, *e.g.*, vertiginous attacks and twitchings, like those seen in cortical epilepsy, Dr. Tuczek was able to confirm the statements made by numerous Italian writers on Pellagra. He was also able to confirm the observations on cord symptoms, *viz.*, paræsthesias, motor and sensory palsies, vaso-motor disturbances. Of three hundred cases he found the knee-jerk exaggerated in two-thirds of the number; the exaggeration amounted to the most intense form of patella clonus in some of the cases. In twenty-three of these cases there was ankle-clonus as well, and in general, exaggeration of the tendon reflexes of the upper limbs, also more or less distinct of the other symptoms of spastic spinal paralysis. In seven cases the knee-jerk was wanting; in none of these cases was there ataxy. In the remaining cases there was either diminution, or no essential change in the tendon reflexes. Difference in the liveliness of the knee-jerk on the two sides was frequently observed. The author showed in photographs the chief types of psychosis in Pellagra, also the skin-affections. He showed, by means of preparations, the trophic lesions of the tongue; and he then discussed the post-mortem appearances in Pellagra. In all eight cases there were degenerative affections of the spinal cord, in two cases of the posterior columns only; in the other cases combined disease of the posterior columns, and of the hinder portions of the lateral columns. Preparations were shown. The clinical and anatomical investigations speak in favour of the toxic theory, which points to the prolonged use of diseased maize. Dr. Tuczek drew attention to the analogous toxæmias, Ergotism and Lathyrism, and laid stress on the point that, as in other forms of toxæmia, so in "Maidismus" or the "Maidic psycho-neurosis" the nervous disturbances were not exactly progressive.

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[Having admitted Dr. Kiernan's paper into our Journal (July, 1887), we consider it only fair to place the following criticism on record which appears in Mr. Wines's "International Record of Charities and Correction." *Audi alteram partem.*—Eds.]