

co-ordination up to the time of her death in October, 1917, at the age of 27.

The *post-mortem* examination revealed complete absence of the corpus callosum, a condition unsuspected during life, as in some other recorded cases of this rare abnormality. (I regret time prevents a study and paraphrase of the literature on this subject.)

Other conditions found were microgyria in the occipital and frontal regions of the brain, and internal hydrocephalus, the lateral ventricles being enlarged out of all proportion to the size of the hemispheres, and the grey and white matter much attenuated. The remarkable smallness of the brain and other organs is shown by the appended weights. The kidneys were lobulated, and there was broncho-pneumonia in both lungs.

<i>Weights.</i>	
Encephalon	870 grm.
Right hemisphere	380 "
Left hemisphere	385 "
Cerebrum	85 "
Pons and medulla	20 "
Heart	140 "
Right lung	235 "
Left lung	355 "
Liver	640 "
Kidneys	65 "

Occasional Note.

Reform in Lunacy Law.

At the November Meeting of the Parliamentary Committee it was resolved to form a sub-committee to consider the amendment of the existing Lunacy Laws. This sub-committee has since been formed, consisting of twelve members, including the chairman and secretary of the parent committee, who will also act in these respective offices for this sub-committee. It has already commenced its labours by a critical investigation of the important legal changes advocated in the Appendix of the Status Report, which report, as our readers are aware, was adopted by the Association at its Annual Meeting in July, 1914. It is now more than a quarter of a century since the last principal Lunacy Act came into operation, and although many amending measures have since been presented to Parliament, no further progress has been made. It is hoped that public attention has been awakened by the mental cases

resulting from the war, and that during the era of reconstruction that must inevitably follow when peace is finally declared, if not before, a more enlightened opinion may prevail which may lead to better provision being made for the treatment of certain types of mental disorder. The admission of voluntary boarders to County and Borough Asylums, for instance, should no longer be a stumbling block, and some alternative method should be devised with proper safeguards for dealing with cases of temporary or unconfirmed insanity; and above all, exists the desirability of the establishment of psychiatric clinics whether as separate hospitals for mental disorders or by the allocation of special wards in general hospitals for these cases. Much has been written on this subject, and we call to mind the valuable introductory address of the Emeritus Lecturer in Psychiatry at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, which appeared in our Journal for January, 1915. Whether such clinics can be contrived on a voluntary basis or by subsidy from the State, and whether some limited form of legal detention should be granted for cases that have overstepped the border-line of insanity, are matters that require careful consideration. Many of our members have no doubt pondered over these problems, and it would be of advantage to the sub-committee referred to if they would state their experience of defects in the present system of dealing with patients suffering from mental disorders, and how in their opinion these defects may be remedied. The Chairman or Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee would be grateful to receive such communications. Although the war while it lasts must continue to absorb our energies, nevertheless, it is incumbent on us to see that our speciality keeps in the van of progress, and the present time does not seem inopportune to give this matter of amending the Lunacy Laws our immediate attention.

Part II.—Reviews.

A Text-Book of Insanity and other Mental Disorders. Second Edition. By C. A. MERCIER, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. Pp. xx + 348. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 1914. Price 7s. 6d. net.

The second edition of this illuminating volume appeared at the outbreak of the war, and we regret that, owing to the exigencies of the times, the review of this publication has been so long delayed. Its size is about half as large again as that of the first edition, which, perhaps, the medical student will deplore, but the author acknowledges in the preface that the considerable additions he has made are intended for those who devote themselves to the special study of insanity.

The introduction, excellent as it is, remains unchanged, as does also the chapter on the Causes of insanity. The chapter on Conduct con-