

GASKELL PRIZE EXAMINATION, 1890.

Friday, July 18th, 1890.

MENTAL DISEASE.

- 1.—Give the chief characteristics of Alcoholic Insanity.
- 2.—What is Neurasthenia? How is it distinguished from Hysteria?
- 3.—Give some account of Diseased Cravings.
- 4.—What is Katatonia? Summarize the views of writers on this subject.
- 5.—Give an account of the Insanity of Pregnancy and its treatment.
- 6.—Describe the oculo-motor symptoms in General Paralysis of the Insane.

PATHOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY.

- 1.—Describe the changes in the membranes and cortex at a point of adhesion in General Paralysis.
- 2.—Describe the appearances found in Pachymeningitis.
- 3.—Describe the "Miliary Sclerosis" found in the brain of the Insane.
- 4.—Give an account of the Will. How far do the Phenomena of Insanity illustrate it?
- 5.—What is meant by "Automatism?" Give illustrations of it in Health and Disease.
- 6.—Explain the Pathology of Loss of Memory.

The successful candidate was Geo. M. Robertson, M.B., Assistant Medical Officer, Royal Asylum, Edinburgh.

Correspondence.

THE WORKING OF THE NEW LUNACY ACT.

We reprint the following letter from the *British Medical Journal* of July 19th, 1890, to assist in giving it the wide circulation which it deserves :—

SIR,—The following is a sample of the difficulties experienced in the working of the new Lunacy Act by those who are so unfortunate as to have insane relatives whose admission to a hospital or private asylum is necessary.

A young man, by occupation a pianoforte tuner, took to reading theology far into the night, and sometimes all night, as well as following his work by day, and this overstrain, together with the sudden shock, resulted in a mental breakdown. He was at first taken by his relatives to the seaside, but maniacal excitement came on, and he was brought to London and admitted to Bethlem Hospital on an urgency order and an urgency certificate, on July 6th. So far, all was satisfactory. Two fresh certificates were then duly obtained, and the "petition" and "statement" filled up properly by the patient's mother. On the evening of the 8th she went to a Justice of the Peace whose name I had given her from a long list of those specially appointed under the Lunacy Acts Amendment Act to act for the County of London, in order to fix a time with him for the consideration of the "petition." He refused to have anything to do with it, and referred her to the Marylebone Police Court. She, having to attend our Committee Meeting here the next morning, sent her daughter to the Court with the petition, and the latter was of course told that the petitioner must attend in person. She was given a list of four names