

legislator. Most certainly the law of the land should be precise here. It appears to the writer, however, that a twofold classification of persons so afflicted might be made, and that their treatment should be in accordance with this. In cases where violence and total inaptitude to fill the relations of citizenship were apparent, then, on the sworn deposition of friends and neighbours, a commitment to an asylum, specially designed for and adapted to the treatment of such persons, might take place. And where a sufficiency of self-possession, or a lucid interval in the progress of the disease might occur, an enactment should be made enabling the person so circumstanced *voluntarily to sign an instrument, which should be legally binding*, consigning himself to the custody of properly qualified guardians—the controllers and managers of such an institution—for a specified term.

Whenever legal, medical, and moral means, such as those here indicated, are brought to bear on the cases in question, then, but not until then, will a reasonable hope dawn on society of release from the calamitous infliction now incurred by their existence and fearful prevalence.

Observations deduced from the Statistics of the Insane. By DR. RENAUDIN, Director of the Asylum at Baréville. From 'Les Annales Psychologiques.'

THAT a uniform statistical method should be generally adopted by all those connected with the insane is greatly to be desired, for though statistical researches have met the fate of all other methods ('Annales Psychologiques,' July, 1856), have been received with unreflecting infatuation, or been the subject of unmerited reproach, according as they have given us useful facts or have led us into error, yet everything leads us to expect that the extension of a statistical programme, would furnish us with useful data, for the examination of some of the most important questions relative to mental alienation.

The statistics of insanity can only be a collective, not an individual, work, and its primary element must consist in an agreement as to the signification of words and terms and of the elements of a rational classification—in a word, an agreement as to the value of the representative signs of the method of observation. This want of agreement really now exists, and not only acts as an obstacle to the co-ordination of exact statistics, but also has an injurious influence on the insane themselves.

The typical forms, as at present recognised, correspond to the predominance of such and such elements, whose frequency or rarity, or even disappearance at any moment, are useful facts to confirm. We must not, therefore, deny, because the medical constitution changes, whatever structure our predecessors have built up, they having observed altogether different phenomena from those which come under our observation. It is through these transformations that we more easily discern the true pathogenic conditions of insanity; and it is for this reason more particularly, that we should be agreed as to a nomenclature exactly answering to facts, and to a diagnosis as precise as is required in other branches of medical science. Lastly, in order to effectively combine the elements of a methodical observation, the evolution of facts must be connected with the different causes of degenerescence, by establishing their filiation and mode of transformation.

The idiot and the imbecile are not admitted into asylums, on account merely of the arrest of their intellectual and physical development. It is not their nervous affection that is the key to their admission, but the danger arising from their excesses and destructive instincts. Now, this danger frequently depends upon locality; an epileptic or idiot may live harmlessly in the country, when he could not wander about a town without the police soon requiring his admission on the ground of public security.

The position of the insane having been regulated by the law of 30th June, 1838, lunatic asylums have become the principal instruments of statistical investigation; they furnish most valuable facts concerning many etiological conditions, when compiled with observations from different regions whose analogies and differences put us in the way of discovering principles of practical utility.

The number of insane in any given asylum at any given date is a fact, in connection with the general population of the district, whose value can only be determined by the consideration of all the causes which could have produced it. An increased mortality may have diminished the number, an unusually healthy state may have apparently increased the number. Again, the census of lunatics at large presents difficulties more especially in towns, so that the number of the asylum population becomes in this point of view of great importance. Again, experience shows that a considerable period intervenes between the moment of invasion and the admission; in order, therefore, to understand the particular conditions of the invasion of insanity in any country, a considerable period must be taken, in order that the number of facts may be sufficient to allow the permanent elements to be clearly observed, and that the exceptional facts may have only their own proper value. And as, in an historic point of view we find sensible differences, so in the pathological view statistics will show us that the course of changes, while borrowing

both from the past and the present, are already preparing a germ for the future. No examination, then, of one period can be taken as a basis for an absolute theory, until a second period has confirmed or modified those changes which the medical constitution has produced.

Again, the unequal distribution of insanity among different classes of the population has been confirmed by the fixed inequality in the admissions; but whatever has been or is assigned as the cause, an attentive study of asylum statistics shows, that this inequality is in proportion to the degree of agglomeration of the population, establishing a fundamental distinction between town and country; but the conditions which constitute or modify this agglomeration, should be taken into consideration before examining the influence of agglomeration in the production of mental alienation. Thus, in the Department of Meurthe,

In years	}	{	The town population, 105,665, gives 322 insane.
1850 to 1855			The rural " 333,978, " 307 "

Of town populations, many with 45,123 inhabitants give 210 insane, while the 60,542 inhabitants of other towns give only 115 insane.

There is another question of great importance, whose answer has never yet been, and perhaps even now cannot be, satisfactorily given. Has the number of the insane increased, and does it tend to increase? Esquirol asked this question forty-five years ago. At that time statistical facts were very incomplete, and the system founded upon the then etiological conditions, rested less upon veritable facts than *à priori* admitted theories. The increase in the admissions was remarked in 1813, and about 1833 a further increase caused new efforts to be made to improve the accommodation, and even, while Esquirol so severely criticised the institution of Maréville, its population continued to increase, notwithstanding the opening of new asylums in the neighbouring departments, and that the law of 1838 had not been promulgated, and also though the internal administration left much to be desired. In relation with this subject, we are struck, in the statistical tables, with the difference that exists in relation to the admissions during many successive years; examining only what has passed in the department of Meurthe, we find alterations which ought to have considerable weight.

Thus, the lunatic population in the three asylums of this department in 1850 was 63, gradually increasing till in 1854 it was 91, falling in 1855 to 55. The same fact reproduces itself from 1816 to 1824, and from 1833 to 1840, and also 1845 and 1846, and recent observations in other departments show analogous changes. Now, it is obvious that some general cause presides over this non-accidental relapse, since it shows itself equally at different places, and almost entirely in the same relation to the agglomeration.

Hereditary tendency plays a considerable part in the evolution of insanity. Mental alienation does not generally develop itself suddenly, and often two or three generations pass through the proteiform modifications of different neuroses, before arriving at this final result. Alcoholic intoxication is certainly one of the principal causes of degenerescence, but the indirect and progressive action of this influence is perhaps less prejudicial to those who indulge than to the generations which succeed. The conditions of causality multiply with the age and exercise an influence so much the greater, as the ground is the better prepared, by anterior causes having more or less modified the physical and intellectual idiosyncrasy. Thus is explained (perhaps too exclusively) the effects of the great social commotions and perturbations which have, since the end of the last century, periodically affected our country. Each has produced a manifest recrudescence, less of itself, than because it has found the materials ready prepared by anterior epochs. Thus, the son suffers for the parent's conduct, and often has to bear the counter-blow of effects in which he had no part. We must not, then, be surprised that the number of the insane increases, not in regular progression, but by intervals of which it requires a long period to determine the extent.

What we have said of hereditary dispositions, applies in like manner to the modifications, which take place in different localities, in the mode of existence of the population. For a long time past, it has been admitted that the medical constitution of the country differed very considerably from that of the town, but this seems now daily to decrease. This has been especially remarked in the departments of Meurthe and Vosges since the manufacture of embroidery has so much extended itself. Nervous affections, the apanage of the women of towns, have invaded the country, and hysteria is of daily occurrence, being the germ of degenerescence, which, besides insanity in the present time, is preparing a rich harvest of epileptics and idiots for the future.

To take the proportion of insane which a given department produces is not all that is required. There is always a considerable mobility in the population, emigration is frequent, and the various requirements of each career necessitate frequent changes. Among 1491 insane of the five departments surrounding Maréville, there are 951 living in the place of their birth, 354 had left their birth-place, but not the department, 186 came from other departments, among which 47 were from the more immediate ones.

In studying the population of towns, in connection with the local etiological conditions, another element will be found enclosed in that of mere agglomeration, which must not be overlooked. For example, ancient traditions have left in the manners and habits of the people of Nancy traces which the course of events have not yet effaced. A unanimous and voluntary consent gives to it the moral

attributes which constitute a capital, arising from the ancient supremacy which it formerly owed to the residence of its dukes. Whilst from all parts people are willing to establish themselves in the department of Meurthe, it is rarely quitted to go elsewhere. This fact is seen in the statistics of the insane, since one third of the insane of the town of Nancy do not belong to the department of Meurthe, whilst at Metz, scarce a sixth of the insane are foreign to it. In Paris, out of 135 insane domiciled there, 98 were not originally of it. This point of view may, perhaps, open to us some of the secrets of the general etiology of the insanity of large towns. I only now give it its own value, and must leave further observation to prove its permanence.

The statistics then, published by the care of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, although ceasing in 1853, contain some valuable information, showing that this method of investigation is very far from being settled, and we have seen with what caution we should deduce the conclusions, which seem to be derived from certain figures, and how we must take care not to require results, which the figures cannot legitimately give.

On the 31st December, 1853, the sequestered insane were spread through 111 establishments ('*Les Annales Psychologiques*,' January, 1860), of which 65 were public and 46 private. The first were divided into 39 special asylums and 26 district hospitals. Of these 39 special asylums 6 were constructed during the period of 1842—1853 (the period of the statistic). In January, 1835, the insane then amounted to 10,539; in January, 1842, to 15,280; in January, 1849, to 20,231; lastly, in 1854, the number had reached 24,524; that is to say, in nineteen years an increase of 133 per cent. and everything leads to the belief that since then the movement has not ceased. From 1842 to 1854 we have, in relation to the sexes, a balance always on the female side; but during the latter few years the proportion of males manifests a tendency to increase. In January, 1854, the insane were divided into 9314 for men, and 12,675 for women, which gives in the 100 the proportion 48·31 to 52·23. This result should not be admitted as expressing the frequency of insanity in each sex, for, in general, the number of male admissions predominates, but mortality is greater among them, and it is more especially to this cause that we must attribute the reduction of their number at a given moment.

The 23,795 insane, in January, 1853, were thus distributed among different establishments—10,839 in special asylums, 7223 in local hospitals, 5733 in private institutions. It is through public authority, that the number of sequestrations has more particularly increased; for in 10 years the population of public asylums has risen 76 per cent., but only 57 in private asylums, and local asylums have shown an increase of 11 per cent.

Of the 111 establishments, both private and public, in January, 1853, 17 asylums contained 10,935, giving for each a mean population of 643. At this time 7 only surpassed this number. At the present day 12 contain a greater number.

In relation to the population, the proportion of the insane has also considerably increased, since in fifteen years the proportion, which was as 1 in 3024 of inhabitants, has risen to that of 1 in 1676 inhabitants. And, as during the period from 1836 to 1851, the population of France has increased 6.88 per cent., the insane have increased 92.52 per cent., a proportion of fourteen times. But it is not by the sum total of the sequestered insane that the extent of the evil can be measured. A document furnished by the census of 1851 establishes that the total number of insane was then 44,970, which gives, in relation to population, a mean proportion of 1 in 796 inhabitants. We would willingly admit that this proportion is rather under than over the truth, and we very naturally conclude that if in this number there are many inoffensive persons, there are very many also at liberty who constitute a permanent danger to the security of the public. So it happens that the asylums annually recruit their population more from long-neglected cases than from new ones. It is in vain that some departments wish to limit in an arbitrary manner, the number of their assisted sick; the evil is stronger than their calculations, and experience has altogether baffled them. Thus, in the Haut-Saône the number of insane in 1849 was only 80, it now keeps 165. In the department of Meurthe the increase in the same period has been from 170 to 276. - In that of Moselle the number has almost tripled, and that of Vosges, notwithstanding all the impediments to admission, the numbers have increased from 35 to 100.

This progression in the number of the insane has much occupied the administrations of the departments and the general councils, and in the work which we are analysing, various opinions which have been enunciated on the subject have been mentioned, and we regret to state that almost all of them betray a very incomplete knowledge of facts, which it is easier to deny than to study in their different significations. Beyond doubt, insanity has now more victims than formerly, and that the conditions of our social state render isolation more necessary now than in any former period. The increase of patients who are maintained by their families in both private and public asylums shows this. It is not that the relations desire to get rid of these patients; on the contrary, it is only as a last resource that they are isolated. Those who have attended closely to the prejudices of both high and low, to the passionate demands for discharge of the very poorest—those who have read the protestations of the municipal councils against the isolation of the insane of their districts, and have observed the public danger from those insane, so often sent home as calm, quiet, and inoffensive—can well understand that the increase in

the asylums, depends rather upon the intensity of the evil itself, than from imaginary abuses, which have produced phantoms in the minds of the general councils.

It would be impossible to notice *seriatim* all the opinions given by the departmental councils, to excuse themselves from the increased expenses incidental to the increased requirements of the insane.

But we again repeat it, that to deny the evil is not to destroy it; and whoever refuses to study the subject in all its bearings exposes himself to be deceived, for everywhere we remark that facts contradict preconceived notions, which could easily have been rejected without entering far into the depths of science.

We willingly admit, with the general council of Calvados, that the passions and excesses have been at all times the same; that humanity has the same weaknesses and aspirations; and that if the manifestations do somewhat change, the same virtuality in the collective as well as in the individual character is seen; but when, from the physiognomy of passion I pass to the examination of the nature and the number of those who participate in its exercise, and study the conditions and transformations under which they act, I have a very different opinion. We cannot abstract the great modifications which the revolution of 1789 produced in the social movement, which was not, as hitherto, restricted to the surface, but which radiates through all the masses of the public hierarchy. From the moment when we cease to ask a man whence he comes, from the moment when merit replaces all the titles to nobility, and that each may become an ancestor, the sentiment of personality awakes, the individual acquires a value formerly often despised, and in civil as well as in military life, the officer of fortune has disappeared under the distinctions accessible to all.

As the sentiment of personality awakens, and while it is fortified by a virtuality intellectually perfect, no obstacle can embarrass its progress, thus ambition is nothing but a reasonable aspiration towards a determined end, which can be attained under the direction of conditions easily fulfilled. But if there be those who can stay their course, how often do we see others whom the sentiment of personality looses; for one who succeeds, how many fail! Thus is it, so to say, that passion is the expression of vain efforts; absent merit is supplied by intrigue, and thus we encounter those who are lost to all sense, and the insane, the last term for all disordered passion. What now, however, is important to observe, is the generalization of the impassioned movement which, from the heights of the social ladder, spreads itself everywhere, endeavouring to overturn in its passage all those whose virtuality was not up to the level of its influence. The immigration into towns—the abandonment of agriculture—the progress of stock-jobbing—the search of public employment—the preference accorded to works of skill or to the

chance contracts of commerce, lastly, the ever increasing number of bankrupts, such are the facts of which the councils-general yearly complain, refusing at the same time to see in them the intimate connection with those dramas, whose termination is found in suicide or in sojourn in a lunatic asylum.

While society had a belief, when the breath of free examination had not engendered doubt, when the principle of authority was still powerful, the religious principle could not go astray, and we only observed the exaggeration of fanaticism, excited by local and accidental causes. Ignorance has seen her mask torn away, the intellectual level has progressively risen, doubt has prevailed, and truth is extinguished in the shock of our revolutions, and yet our epoch is, perhaps, that which is most fertile in religious insanity. Fear has replaced fanaticism, and has necessarily made many victims among that crowd which, over-excited one moment, by a false agitation finds only a void the next, when quiet has been restored. This over-excitement, however, exercises temporarily a prophylactic influence; thus, in 1848, the number of admissions, generally, had considerably diminished. But we must not omit to notice on the other hand, that there was a marked increase subsequent to the year 1849. The character of this increase should, however, be defined before we consider the explanation of it.

In relation to this period, one fact cannot but strike us as important—the attacks against family relations—most prominent lesions of the affective sentiments, and with this, the depressive form has become the most frequent. The development of the affective sentiments corrects the wanderings of other sentiments, whilst, on the other hand, their decadence is the starting point of those deplorable perversions, which we find in so many insane, and which at the present time especially contribute to render them more dangerous than formerly. Rightly do we complain of the abuse of alcoholic liquors, and of prostitution, which being causes of a certain degenerescence, are, besides, the true index of that weakness of the affective sentiments, which, met with everywhere, is sure to bring fatal ruin, if not arrested by a powerful hand. But if those deep disturbances which have ruined society, have had their momentary victims, how numerous must be the victims they have prepared for the future! When France succumbed in 1814 to a formidable coalition, it was not that her courage was overthrown, but that she could only recruit her army with soldiers born under the Reign of Terror, and that a physical degenerescence had left as a consequence, a true moral weakness. Such is the epoch in which the statistics reveal a considerable increase in the number of the insane. Especially as to the fact that at that time, the generation which, born under the influence of our disasters, and the calamitous years that followed, was developing itself, must be added the effect of the

cholera of 1832, and the political agitation of our third revolution. Since 1850 the increase has further shown itself; for to the facts of hereditary tendency, whose origin we have indicated, is added the perturbations of 1848, the cholera of 1849 and 1854, whose influence on the population of France the last census has revealed.

An allusion is often made relative to the pathogenic influence of revolutions, they are far from being identical, manifesting themselves less in the ideas which are awakened, than by the passions which are aroused. The primary effect of all social convulsions is to inspire fear in all those who, spectators of the struggle, see in it the loss of security and the ruin of their hopes. Confidence is destroyed, expansion retires, and virtuality itself is oftentimes gravely compromised. In those who take an active part—some wear themselves out, more or less quickly; others invigorate themselves, whilst others, drawn by the most thoughtless enthusiasm, are completely bewildered the moment that the return of order and security leaves un-nourished that sterile agitation which is the breath of anarchy. To enunciate this fact, is to show how the pathologic consequences naturally range themselves, and also how the number of victims is so considerable after that the struggle has ceased. But if isolated revolutions have their disastrous consequences, how ought they to be aggravated, when a new revolution complicates the results. Those who have escaped the first, find a stumbling block in the second, and if this be surmounted, it is sure that the breath of the third will carry them away. These things happen in the pathological order, as surely as in the moral order, and much error would have been avoided in this world if these questions, better studied, had not been much obscured by the sophisms of a greedy egotism.

The increase in the admissions of the insane, first especially felt in the department of the Seine, progressively spread itself through the other departments, until for the period from 1849 to 1853, it has shown itself as 97 per cent. It is in this point that the revolution of 1848 is principally distinguished from its elder sisters. Until then Paris, and a few exceptional centres, had had the monopoly of agitation, and it was there naturally that mental alienation should have its greatest number of victims. But in 1848, agitation was decentralised, fear became much more general, the perturbing root was deeper, and the progress of the evil had gone so far, that in 1851, when Paris was pacified in two days, the struggle continued energetically in the departments furthest from the centre, where the secret societies could not be dissolved but by long-continued efforts. Again, it is since 1848 that we observe the immigration into the towns and the abandonment of agriculture for work created by the exaggerated development of certain manufactures. Annually the Asylums of Salpêtrière and Bicêtre furnish us, by the insane which they return to the Departments of their home, the unanswerable

proof of the dangers of this hot social temperature, which overwhelms those who are not sufficiently inured to resist its influence.

If the sum total of the insane at any given time, has shown the number of females to be above those of males, the statements of annual admissions presents a totally opposite result, for the period between 1842 and 1853—in which the proportion per cent. of admissions is represented as 53·30 for men and 46·70 for women. This fact calls for some explanation, in order that we may not be led to consider, that men are more predisposed than women to insanity. At Paris and in other great centres of population, equality is generally maintained between the two sexes, more frequently the females predominate over the men; if we now trace concentric circles round these great agglomerations, the further we travel from the centre, the more the proportion of women to the men decreases. It is to the female that agglomeration of population appears most fatal, and it is especially since 1854, that this fact has become more and more evident, not only in populous towns, but also in certain less important commercial centres, which are the seat of periodic and nomadic agglomeration. It is too, in the alternating fluctuation which the proportion of sexes in the admissions presents, that we observe the modifications in the medical constitution which gives a peculiar stamp to mental alienation. So that, without entering here into the development of this idea, we can state, that the predisposition of one or other sex shows itself, more or less according to the existence of circumstances of a nature to influence the reigning constitution of disease.

Notwithstanding that the isolation of the insane, has been for a long time considered as necessary to the public security, yet physicians have been accused of seeing danger, not only in the acts which the insane have committed, but in those which they may commit. Now we have frequently remarked, that sufficient notice has not been taken of the threats of the insane. Crimes committed under the influence of a sudden spontaniety, are comparatively rare, and even when they seem to have this character, the medico-legal expert shows that they have been preceded by a considerable period of incubation. The danger exists as long as there are threats, and so long may the act be committed; for, once the incitation fixed, either by an irresistible instinct, or by hallucinatory conceptions, a fatal attraction will necessarily, if without obstacle, lead to a serious issue. There is in the acts of the insane a sequence so logical, that their prevision is not conjectural, and when the physician has declared the existence of the danger, it certainly is very imprudent to wait for any demonstration of it. I quite foresee, that the behaviour of our patients in the asylum, where they are calm, mild, and inoffensive, working eagerly, and submitting without complaint, will be objected to this view. We can point out, that the most dreadful crimes have

been committed by the mildest of lunatics, but as an answer we shall observe that, an insane man believes, for example, in his right to the throne, or in the exercise of some reforming power, announces loudly his intention to proceed to the seat of government to exercise his projects. Shall we wait the accomplishment of the acts he may commit, or shall we prevent, by an opportune sequestration, the practical development of a delusion whose consequences are foreseen? Why therefore should not an equal solicitude watch over all? The danger of which a lunatic is the cause, exists not only in himself, but also in his connection with the surrounding circumstances. More than ever, is the insane become as a foreign body in the general movement which impels society. The material conditions of life becoming daily more difficult, is demanding an activity which fetters and annoys, because its excitement increases, and its impressions become more painful. When everything becomes a source of suffering, the attempts at reaction are more energetic, especially when the defects of an early education have exaggerated the intolerance of the suffering, have excited a strong irritability, and have removed the instinctive impulses from the empire of a reasoning will, or from the influence of the affective sentiments. Lastly, it has been attempted to exclude idiots and imbeciles from the action of the law, under the pretext that these diseases are without hope for the person, and without danger to the public order, or personal security. We cannot do better than borrow our refutation of this opinion from Dr. Ferrus, than whom no one has more ably contributed to the solution of the different problems relative to public charity.

“Without contradiction,” says the learned inspector-general, “insanity and idiotism are very different things, since one consists in a disease having supervened in a person, who, before being attacked, enjoyed the plenitude of his intellectual faculties, whilst the other is, so to say, but the normal and permanent state of an individual, whose faculties have undergone in a greater or less degree an arrest of development. But this diversity of origin and aspect, does not prevent the lunatic and the idiot from agreeing in one essential point, that of mental alienation—a generic expression which embraces in its full acceptation all the species of moral and intellectual defection. Both are wanting in judgment, or rather moral liberty; it matters little, whether by alteration or default, both are incapable of appreciating the morality of their acts, of directing the will, of maintaining their determination; that is to say, that, lost to themselves, they are equally insane. In a word, there is between the lunatic and the idiot this only difference, that the one has never known, and the other knows no more. If then it is so, the law not having established a distinction between the categories of insanity, it is evident that, without derogating from our position, we cannot exclude the idiot from the measures which were intended to apply to all the

insane. As calm and inoffensive as the idiots may appear, it needs but a trifle to rouse in them the most violent instincts, and to force them to acts the most compromising to the security of public order. Nothing is less rare than to see murders committed by these unfortunates, incapable of giving an account of what they do. As the greater part possess physical force, and have sometimes enough intelligence to execute what they are commanded to do, they become often in the hands of perverse persons blind instruments of mischief. There is another point which should not be lost sight of, because it relates to dispositions whose manifestations are not less noxious than constant—I mean the brutal passions. Lechery is in idiots a characteristic phenomenon; we all know with what eagerness they give themselves up to onanism. To satisfy uncontrollable desire, they will attack any woman or girl they may meet apart, and make them victims to their vile purposes. Female idiots are not attracted towards men with less power; and with shame be it said, there are those who abuse their ignorance and weakness. Multitudes of children, born in the most unfavorable circumstances, are the fruits of such ignoble connections. Certainly these are facts gravely compromising public order and personal security, and we must add, the repose of the family. There is then great reasons why we should class idiots in the category of dangerous lunatics, towards whom the law warns the administration to take caution and care.

The general statistics also show us two facts which ought to give rise to the most serious reflection. The manifestation of mental alienation before twenty years of age, and the prevalence of general paralysis. Formerly insanity of early age was a very rare exception; now, on the contrary, we observe a more marked precocity, and the insanity of the young seems to have some relation to the numerous suicides now so prevalent. The deep perversions in the instincts and sentiments, act strongly on the developing of these cases, of which puberty is often the crisis, or as often acts as an exaggeration. It happens in all ranks of society, and seems to be on the increase. A direct or predisposing hereditary tendency will necessarily play an important part, revealing to us once again, how important it is to calculate, not only the causes which impress directly, but also those which exercise a collective action on the generation which precedes.

Lastly, general paralysis was formerly considered as the almost exclusive appanage of the male sex, but which now counts as many victims among females. It is in the examination of causes, which precede and produce this form of insanity, that we have one of the proofs that mental alienation is a disease much more serious now than formerly, and must necessarily make a greater number of victims.

We have noticed all these points as a refutation to those opinions

by means of which, the construction of institutions as answering to the pressing wants, was impeded, and we notice with satisfaction that the general councils of 1859 have been signalised by a return to the just appreciation of facts; and if the cause of the insane has not conquered all the sympathies to which it has a right, antagonism is extinguished, and the future presents a better promise.

J. H. B.

Two Cases illustrative of two distinct forms of Mania, with general Paralysis. By KENNETH McLEOD, A.M., M.D., Certified Student in Medical Psychology and Mental Diseases, of the University of Edinburgh, and Assistant Medical Officer of the Durham County Asylum, Sedgfield.

(Communicated by Professor LAYCOCK.)

DR. McLEOD to PROFESSOR LAYCOCK.

DURHAM COUNTY ASYLUM;
Oct. 15, 1861.

MY DEAR DR. LAYCOCK,—I am sorry that owing to constant occupation of my time by asylum engagements, I have not been able sooner to forward the cases of which I promised you a detailed history. This I have been at some pains in ascertaining as accurately as possible, and regret that I have not been able to put my materials into a more polished form. Both of them seem to be very typical examples of the forms of general paralysis which you differentiate, namely, the alcoholic and diathetic. Each affords a most perfect example of the sequence by which, from a perfect *arthritic* health, and sound arthritic modes of psychological manifestation, the invasion of paralysis gradually proceeded to sap and extinguish life.

Both appear to me to be pure examples of the mode of decline to death in each. Faculties never very brilliant or developed to any extent, but eminently sound and normal in modes of action, gradually became enfeebled, and ultimately erased without the repetition, or optimism, which finds a rudimentary homologue in the accumulating propensities recorded in both cases.

The development of the emotional and animal in Case I, and the automatic acts in Case II, are perhaps the phenomena of greatest interest and importance. The pathological appearances seem to me also to correspond with and throw a very interesting light on the manifestations during life. The automatic manifestations which I