

zeal, and loyalty. But what caring can a man who has been drafted into the army from the back slums of Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Aberdeen, be expected to have in the honour and interests of his country? The chances are that he was driven to enlist to save himself from starvation, which stared him in the face through want of education, vice, or intellectual deficiency. When a man is fit for nothing else, he is still considered good enough to defend his country's honour. He may, indeed, fill a pit as well as another; but a soldier, even of the kind we have, is too costly an article to be expended in this fashion. Besides, we do not want him to fill a pit himself, but, if need be, to fill pits with the bodies of the enemy.—*The Scotsman*, September 15th.

The Medico-Psychological Association.

Definition is dangerous, and never more so than when it seeks to ensnare Psyche in its net. From the dawn of speculation to the present day, the intelligence of mankind has been continually prying into the laws of its own processes, and into the relation of these with the physical organism, through which alone it becomes cognisant of them. In proportion, however, as speculation has grown scientific, it has desisted from seeking its object by what Coleridge called "the high *priori* road," and any progress it has made towards the solution of its inquiries has been effected on the narrow and humble pathway of inductive research.

Hitherto psychological investigation has had mainly a speculative interest; and considering the method which it pursued, it could scarcely have had any deeper one. Now, however, by the almost unanimous consent of its votaries, it has been content to range itself among the inductive sciences; and, as a reward for this condescension, it has received a large reinforcement of followers, who have given it a much more practical, not to say human, interest. The psychologist no longer sneers at the low and grovelling pursuits of the physiologist. The physiologist no longer turns away in contempt from the purblind gropings of the psychologist. They have united their forces in an offensive and defensive alliance for the attainment of a common end.

"Alterius sic
Altera poscit opem res et conjurat amice."

At no former meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association has this fusion of the two sciences been more distinctly recognised than at the recent one in Edinburgh, presided over with such ability by Dr. Browne. Medico-psychology now claims a definite place among the inductive sciences, and if asked to show its credentials it points to the field which it cultivates, to the method by which it proceeds, and to the results which it has already achieved. The field is surely a sufficiently palpable one, and by no means likely in these days to have its area diminished. The very fact that, in spite of the much more normal mode of life pursued by the great body of the public, the phenomena of lunacy have betrayed no tendency to decrease, is enough to prove that there are forces working through our modern civilisation which are directly injurious to mental health. The annual reports of Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy for England, Scotland, and Ireland furnish a direct answer to all who would question the significance of the medico-psychologist's department.

Again, the method by which the medico-psychologist proceeds is one with which the most rigid votary of science has, now at least, no right to quarrel.

True, the time is not very far distant when the subject was treated in a style which could only irritate the inductive inquirer. Crude theories of psychology, theories not less crude of physiology, were freely accepted and made the groundwork of the most confident generalisations. A treatise on lunacy was almost invariably a portentous cross-birth between bad metaphysics and premature physiology. The subject which, from the obscurity and almost evanescent fineness of its phenomena, required a rigidly accurate and consistent use of terms, was handled in the most loose and declamatory style. Where a calm and clear exposition was wanted, the reader was generally entertained with the inflated discourse of a little Bethel revivalist. Now, however, such contributions to the literature of medico-psychology are no longer tolerated, and a more rational, intelligible, not to say honest, method of treating the subject is adopted. We are mainly indebted to Continental writers for the happy change, and Germany has, according to her wont, supplied us with the most original and really valuable additions to the medico-psychologist's library.

Not that we have had no able and effective workers in the same field at home. The late Dr. Prichard, so justly held in honour by the profession for his high attainments in philology and in all that pertains to the history and development of mankind, was one of these. The late Dr. Conolly was another—an enlightened physician whom Dr. Browne claims, in eloquent language, as “a philosophical advocate of medico-psychology founded upon induction.” The late Sir Benjamin Brodie was yet another; while the names of living cultivators of the same difficult field will at once suggest themselves to our readers. The journalism of medical psychology is fairly entitled, for its ability, for its originality, and for the scientific value of its contributions, to rank with the journalism of any other department of medicine. Nay, in the very city where the last meeting of the Association was held—a city which justly boasts of having founded a distinct school of philosophy—a lectureship of medical psychology has been instituted under the enlightened auspices of Professor Laycock, and, with the congenial assistance of Sir James Coxe and of Dr. Browne himself, has already done much to bring the philosophical studies of the place into harmonious relation with those of the purely medical curriculum. Much as has been done for the more accurate investigation of the phenomena of lunacy, we are entitled to expect a great deal more; and the science of medico-psychology will have nothing to fear if tested by the standard adopted by Mr. Lowe for Government schools—“results.”

Even at present the medico-psychologist can appeal with justice to much valuable service done in the treatment of mental disease. If asked for specimens of successful labourers in his peculiar field, Dr. Browne might well have pointed to his numerous audience and said, “*Circumspice!*” There was never a time when so many accomplished physicians made it the business of their lives to investigate and treat the phenomena of lunacy; and who will say that the labours of all these men have been without result? From the treatment of the imbecile and idiotic at such asylums as Earlswood, and Larbert in Scotland, to the treatment of even such apparently hopeless manifestations of mental disease as chronic mania and general paralysis, medico-psychology can point, in the language of Bacon, to many an *instantia prerogativa* which may well sustain her votaries in the prosecution of their beneficent work. Certainly it would be a hard dispensation for the followers of any science if success refused to crown exertions carried on in the spirit, at once scientific and philanthropic, of such physicians as Prichard and Conolly.—*The Lancet*, August 15th.