

PART III.—QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE PROGRESS  
OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.

I.—*French Psychological Literature.*

By J. T. ARLIDGE, A.B. and M.B. Lond., M.R.C.P. Lond., &c.

(Concluded from the 'Journal of Mental Science,' July, 1866.)

*Annales Médico-Psychologiques.*—The following original memoirs contained in the volumes of this Journal for 1865 were not included in the analysis presented in our July number, viz., "Case of Triple Infanticide," by Dr. Teilleux; "Remarks on the Utility of the Seclusion of the Insane," by Dr. Rousselin: on "Pellagra regarded from a Medico-Legal point of view," by Léon Sorbets; a "Medico-Legal Estimate of the Actual Condition of the Insane in France," by Brierre-de-Boismont; "The Passions—the Influence of the Moral upon the Physical Nature," by Tissot; a "Medico-Legal Report on a Case of Parricide," by M.M. Voisin, Parchappe and Rousselin; one on a "Woman charged with Infanticide," by Dr. H. Bonnet; and a third on a "Husband charged with the Murder of his Wife," by MM. Daviers and Billod; a "Memoir on the effects of Insolation upon the Insane," by Brunet; a "Medico-Legal Report on the Mental State of a Lady, an inmate at the Charenton," by MM. Parchappe, Girard de Cailleux, and Rousselin; and one on a "Man accused of Forgery," by M. Legrand du Saulle.

*Triple Infanticide.*—The particulars are recounted by Dr. Teilleux, who was commissioned to inquire into the mental state of the guilty woman, the wife of Donnier Blanc, at Sassenage, in the department of the Isère. To carry out the inquiry Dr. Teilleux examined the accused on five several occasions, and also devoted a sixth day to visiting the scene where the crime was committed and to making inquiries among relatives and acquaintances on the spot.

The woman destroyed her three children by drowning. She was a small, pale, weak, deformed woman, aged thirty-two, but in appearance much older, having a double curvature of the spine, a small head much sunk between the shoulders, long thin arms and a very bulky abdomen, an enlarged heart, and grey scanty hair. Her countenance and manner were calm and collected, and her mind exhibited a fair amount of activity. She detailed the circumstances

of the murder without emotion, as though she had herself been unconcerned in them; she, however, gave vent to tears when her maternal love was appealed to. Menstruation had always been irregular and painful, and the murder was committed immediately prior to the recurrence of the menstrual discharge.

She attributed her distorted spine to a fall down stairs when a child between seven and eight years old, but the deformity was really due to a rachitic scrofulous constitution. However, it caused her much annoyance on account of the taunts and jests it exposed her to, and, as she remarked, everybody despised her.

She lost her mother during childhood, and was left to the charge of a beast of a father, who attempted to violate her when only seven years of age, as well as on after occasions, and indulged his vicious propensities openly in her presence with prostitutes brought into his house. The poor child learnt to hate her parent, and sought by marriage, when twenty-two, to escape from his power. But she could not, even as a wife and a mother, escape persecution from his lust, nor shield her children from his insults and grossness. She felt herself and them exposed to infamy and misfortune, and began to think it better they were dead. This distressed state of mind became aggravated by a charge made against her by her profligate father that she had stolen from him a bill for 1000 francs, and by a threat that he would have her imprisoned.

She drowned the youngest child first and relented, and attempted to save the eldest, the last pushed into the river; at the same time her own purpose to drown herself failed her when in the water, and she immediately repented of her rash act, and made confession of it to the priest, admitting that she was happy in having sent them to heaven. Her description of the particulars was given without emotion, and was interrupted and resumed without difficulty. The suggestion of punishment by the guillotine created not the smallest fear, and the only thing that called forth her emotions was reference to her father and his vile conduct. This subject constituted the fixed idea of her mind.

Her early history indicated much mobility of mind, periods of sadness exchanged for gaiety without appreciable cause. She became after puberty anæmic and hysterical. During her married life she had five children, and suffered much from hæmorrhage at her confinements, and from bleeding piles at other times. The lochia were suppressed three days after her last confinement (some four months before the murder), and the menses did not subsequently return for five months. Her mind was much disturbed for some two or three months before the fatal event; she was reported to have wandered in ideas and in speech, and latterly to have had little sleep, and this interrupted by frightful dreams. The insomnia continued after she was placed in confinement, and she recounted a

dream or hallucination of her father appearing to her and threatening her.

Dr. Teilleux discusses at length the mental state of the father of the unfortunate woman, and comes to the conclusion that he was not only a most vicious man, but also one of unsound mind—a specimen of degenerescence, to use M. Morel's term. The daughter was a like specimen. Her murderous act he assigns to an insane impulse, the result of overwrought feeling and of maternal tenderness impelled in a wrong direction. She killed her children, so to speak, automatically, and her self-consciousness was aroused by the appeal of her eldest child and by the contact of the cold of the water into which she plunged after her.

The case ended by the acquittal of the woman on the ground of her insanity, and she was ordered to be detained in the asylum.

*The utility of secluding the insane at the commencement of their malady*, Dr. Rousselin undertakes to demonstrate, by an appeal to published facts, the troubles and dangers of leaving insane people at large under the impression that they will do no harm. From the introductory remarks of his paper, it appears that an outcry has been raised in several French newspapers against the facility (as is averred) permitted by law to sequester persons accused of insanity, and against the constitution of asylums as places of seclusion and of treatment.

The writer, in fulfilling his purpose, adopts the course of extracting the leading particulars of eight instances of murder and suicide (as recorded in the 'Moniteur' and 'Siècle' during the latter nine months of 1864) committed by persons betraying some oddness of manner or of conversation, but not considered by their friends and neighbours insane enough to be confined in an asylum. He also analyses eighty-two other such published instances occurring during the same interval of time, and thus shows that on ninety occasions, within a period of nine months, public security was compromised by the existence at large of just so many lunatics. In fifty instances death resulted by murder or by suicide;—by the latter, in twenty-three of this number.

Dr. Rousselin was, moreover, enabled to get at the facts in the majority of the ninety cases recorded, so as to discover that in forty-eight the catastrophe occurred on the outbreak of an attack of insanity or within a very short period of it; and the argument deduced is, that the prompt seclusion of an insane individual is both a duty owing to society for its protection, and a benefit to the sufferer by affording him the best chance of recovery.

*Pellagra in a medico-legal point of view* is discussed by Dr. Léon Sorbets. He enters upon this discussion with an expression of dis-

sent from the views of Drs. Roussel and Costellat respecting the cause of pellagra, as he is not prepared to regard the epiphyte (*verdet*) growing upon damaged and fermenting maize as the specific cause of the malady—an opinion maintained by them in the thesis on Pellagra to which the Academy awarded the Barbier prize.

Dr. Sorbets next briefly details a few cases coming under his own observation, in past years, of patients afflicted with pellagra who terminated their existence by suicide; and he rightly points out that suicidal propensity, chiefly during the accession of active delirium, is noted by writers on pellagra as a common occurrence. Indeed, those afflicted with this malady are subject to occasional seizures of violent delirium, and to a state of monomania or partial insanity, during the existence of which their actions must be held to be free from legal responsibility. This partial insanity assumes a melancholic form, with a vacant, stupid expression; it occurs in the advanced stages of pellagra, and disposes the sufferer to either suicidal or homicidal acts, and is further marked by hallucinations and illusions of sight or of hearing, or of both those senses at the same time. The mind presents, moreover, more or less dementia; the intellectual faculties are rendered obtuse or are obliterated; the moral consciousness and the normal perception and appreciation of persons and objects around are lost, and the most reprehensible acts are committed without motive or remorse.

If this be admitted, then, as Dr. Sorbets argues, the victim of advanced pellagra is absolved from responsibility for criminal acts committed under the morbid influence of the disease, which acts as an irresistible impelling force, inasmuch as his condition falls within the meaning of the 489th article of the Civil and of the 64th article of the Criminal Code of France; the former declaring that an adult who is in a habitual state of imbecility, of dementia, or of fury, may be interdicted, even if he have at times lucid intervals; and the latter providing that no crime or trespass can lie to the charge of the accused if he be at the time of the act in question in a state of dementia, nor if he be impelled to its commission by an irresistible impulse.

*Estimate of the present Position of the Insane in France in relation to the Law of 1838.* By Dr. A. Briere de Boismont.—This long paper by M. de Boismont may be regarded as an extended *Apologia* for lunacy laws, lunatic asylums, and mad doctors. Our own country has been the scene of popular excitement at several periods respecting the condition and treatment of the insane; nor have such periods in several instances been ushered in without adequate causes, though in others they have been artificially brought about and sustained during a precarious and brief existence only by the spasmodic efforts of a few individuals in search of a grievance,

or of a sensational episode in the hum-drum of modern life among certain classes. A paroxysmal period of this sort has persisted in France for several years, its longer duration than its like among ourselves being attributable to the requirements of French journalism, which being restricted in its political developments, must find other matter for its purpose, duly seasoned to the national taste for sensational produce. And to what could the facile and vigorous writers in French newspapers turn for a supply of the requisite material for sensational composition with more prospect of success, than to the condition of the insane, the evils of seclusion, the abuses of asylums, and the misdoings of asylum doctors? since to all these subjects a sort of mystery clings in public estimation, and inasmuch as the grossest ignorance prevails respecting them amongst all classes. The happy *feuilletonist* who hit upon this prolific field for the employment of his pen, found already to hand various facts popularly received regarding insanity and the insane which would furnish him with a string of texts whereto to fasten the cobweb products of his active imagination. He found it recognised as an article of belief, that in France the number of the insane in asylums had doubled in the course of the ten years between 1851 and 1861, although asylums had been largely increased both in number and in size; he accepted it as a general fact, that the asylums were filled with chronic and incurable cases, that very few were ever discharged, and he discovered a most welcome weapon for casuistical attacks upon the doctrines of psychiatrists in the admitted difficulty of drawing a definite line between the sane and the insane state. With these assumed facts as a basis, he proceeded, with the aid of more or less inventive faculty, to construct various propositions; viz., medical incompetence to recognise and discriminate the forms of insanity; medical greed to profit by the detention of persons in asylums; the horrors of seclusion, and their effect in inducing insanity among those unjustly imprisoned in asylums, even within the three days permitted by law before their state could be affirmed by legally appointed guardians; nay, more, even within twenty-four hours; and the inadequacy of the law to protect from false imprisonment, and the consequent multitude of sane and harmless people shut out from all enjoyment and due occupation, and deprived of their liberty, &c.

These and other similar propositions, germinated within the closet of the newspaper writer, Dr. de Boismont undertakes to discuss and demolish. It would be to no purpose at this time in England, and particularly in a periodical like the 'Journal of Mental Science,' to recapitulate Dr. de Boismont's arguments in reply to the fallacies advanced by the writers for the French press; for in past years these last were thrust forward by some English sensational newspaper and novel writers, and were completely demolished by considerations,

facts, and figures analogous to those adduced by the able and distinguished French physician just named.

We cannot, however, dismiss the further examination of this "apology" without expressing a high opinion of the manner in which it is written, and of its completeness as a reply to the objections and insinuations so recklessly brought forward.

*The Passions—the influence of the moral upon the physical nature of Man*, is the subject of a psychological article by M. Tissot. It constitutes one of a series of psychological essays this well-known writer has produced from time to time. He is a supporter of the doctrine of "animism," a believer in the separate existence of vital forces, and at the same time he makes use of the old hypotheses of fluxions—of vaporous, convulsive and febrile disturbances of an assumed normal equilibrium, among the vital forces. For instance, in the first section of his essay he speaks of the influence of the passions in producing fluxionary movements which displace the blood and humours from one part to another, and so constitute the active cause of hæmorrhages. To illustrate these bygone hypotheses, he has recourse to the works of physiologists and of physicians of the last century for examples of diseases following upon emotional excitement, and which, in the absence of a more accurate and minute physiology, were then explained by such theories as those he now resuscitates.

However, the general truth M. Tissot has essayed to establish, viz., the influence of the emotions and passions upon the body both in health and in disease, will not suffer by the antiquated illustrations he borrows for his purpose; indeed, some of the examples are good enough as such, but they would answer their purpose better if divested of the shadowy hypotheses with which he clothes them. In short, M. Tissot should make himself acquainted with modern physiology if he desires his psychological disquisitions to be read and appreciated by the present generation.

*Medico-legal Report on a Parricide.*—This is the joint production of MM. Voisin, Parchappe, and Rousselin, and relates the circumstances of an attempt at parricide, and the opinion arrived at regarding the mental state of Nicolas Kieffer, the would-be murderer. The victim, the father of the accused, lived uncomfortably with a drunken wife, whilst his son, an only child, always had a bad character, imitated his mother in her dissipation, and took her part in the domestic quarrels. In 1860 he was condemned to two years' imprisonment for desertion from the army, and again six days' incarceration, in 1861, for fraud. He was seized with mental disorder in 1862, and sent into the Bicêtre. He was allowed at times to leave the hospital, when he seized the opportunity of indulging in drink.



His animosity towards his father increased, and he several times threatened him with violence.

On the 6th of June, 1864, he was allowed to leave the hospital with his mother. On their way through the streets they entered an ironmonger's shop, where he bought a hatchet, and remarked, "This will do well," accompanying the words by two flourishes of the weapon in the air. In the evening the mother got some brandy, and sat with her son drinking it, when the father (who as rule got his supper away from home, in order to avoid scenes with his wife) returned and lay down to sleep. Just afterwards the son rose hastily, and going to the bedside, upbraided his father for refusing money to the mother, and then seized the hatchet, repeatedly striking him with it. The old man rushed from the couch, and made his way to the common stair of the house, where his cries brought out another lodger, whom the son threatened to murder if she advanced.

Fortunately, the wounds were not mortal, although evidently inflicted with great force and with an evident intention to kill. The accused, indeed, confessed at once his regret that his murderous attempt had failed, and admitted that he had for a long time made up his mind from hatred to kill his father, had bought the hatchet to effect his purpose, and had drunk brandy to give him the necessary courage. A rope was found upon him, which he stated he purposed to hang himself with after having murdered his father. The mother was presumed to have been implicated in the diabolical attempt.

When arraigned on his trial, the culprit made no attempt to extenuate his crime, treated his condemnation as inevitable, and was opposed to having the plea of insanity advanced to rescue him.

His parents were miserably poor, and took little heed of him during his childhood; he, however, learned to read and write. The father was often drunk, though less frequently so than the mother. During his two years' imprisonment (in 1860) he was seized one night, according to his own account, during sleep with an attack that deprived him of the use of the left side of the body; and from that date he became sad, suspicious, and violent. He was treated for this attack in the military hospital for six months, and was then discharged without a pension. He returned to his miserable home with his parents, and after his six days' imprisonment (in 1861) for swindling and his return home, he conceived, according to his own statement, the idea of murdering his father.

On the 14th of May, 1862, tormented with this wretched idea, and otherwise in misery, he threw himself from the sixth floor of a house, but marvellously escaped with his life. He was sent to the Hôtel Dieu, and was at length transferred to the Bicêtre as infirm and mentally deranged, but was not placed among the lunatics. In

1863, and again in 1864, whilst in this hospice, he attempted suicide with a knife; on the former occasion whilst in a state of intoxication.

At the time of the trial he was twenty-seven years old, rather above the middle height, of a lymphatic nervous temperament, and a melancholic, indifferent manner. He was paralysed on the left side, and walked with great difficulty. His intellect appeared feeble, and the range of ideas very limited, and apparently tinged with melancholy. Whilst in prison, on October 25th, 1864, he wrote to his mother, and in this short note stated that he regretted his conduct towards his father, and he hoped he would forgive him.

From the date of his arrest for the murder, in June, until the 12th or 14th of October, his manner was quiet and melancholic, and he occupied all his time in reading; but after that period his conduct changed—he displayed much excitement, and to guard against suicidal attempts he was placed in the infirmary.

The reporters sum up the history, referring to the hemiplegic attack, four years prior to the murder, its effect in disabling him from getting a livelihood, and also in enfeebling the intellectual and moral powers, as exemplified by the periodic attempts at suicide, the irascible temper, and the melancholic disposition. Associated with these particulars were those of his dependence upon his miserable, pauperised parents; the family embroilments and vices; his wounded feelings for his mother, who was constantly upbraided by the father; his own frequent intemperance; and, lastly, his general state of irritation and discontent after his transfer to the Bicêtre, as testified to by several attendants of that hospice.

The conclusions arrived at were—1. That N. Kieffer, anteriorly to June 6th, 1864, was suffering from semi-imbecility, consecutive to cerebral hæmorrhage and consequent hemiplegia of the left side, and that this condition was complicated with periodic suicidal melancholy. 2. That at the date of June 6th, 1864, Kieffer being in the mental and physical state as set forth, was moreover, according to his habit, under the influence of violent alcoholic excitement; and it does not appear possible, in our opinion, to affix responsibility to his actions at that time.

*Medico-legal Report on a case of Infanticide.* By Dr. N. Laffitte. —Marie G—, aged 36, was confined in the house of a midwife named Sauvages, on the 28th of May, of a well-formed living male child. On the evening of the following day Sauvages had to leave her house, and did not return until midnight, when, to her amazement, she was told by the mother that the child was dead; “that at ten o’clock it was living and cried loudly, and was dead at eleven.” The woman’s suspicions were raised, and she communicated with Dr. Hermantier, who confirmed them, discovering evident traces of



strangulation in the form of a circular impression around the neck, with some excoriations of the skin.

On the succeeding day M. Hermantier charged the mother with the murder, who at once confessed to it, and on a subsequent occasion gave up the cord by which she had effected it. When taken before the magistrate, she reiterated her confession, and added that, hearing her infant incessantly cry, she sat up in bed and strangled it with her garter, without taking any heed to the presence of another woman, near her confinement, who slept in an adjoining bed almost in contact with her own.

She was committed to prison, but immediately removed to the hospice at Mende. When subsequently put upon trial, at the assizes in Lozères, in September, 1863, circumstances were detailed in evidence which went to show that M. G— was habitually imbecile, and had an hereditary tendency to insanity. Moreover, the physician of the hospice, who had her daily under observation, testified to the existence of nervous disorders; and, taking into account her actual mental condition, he declared it to be his opinion that she had not the free exercise of her faculties at the date of the crime. In consequence of this evidence, the further progress of the trial was postponed to the next session, and Drs. Monteil, Donnadiou, and Laffitte were instructed, in the mean time, to examine the criminal, and to report concerning her mental state.

Their report showed that she was thirty-seven years of age, of a fair constitution, and a lymphatic sanguine temperament. Head well formed; lower half of the face disproportionately large; pupils very large, and inactive; pulse from 60 to 65; loss of power over the lower limbs complete—the muscular contractions of the upper were feeble, and for a time also entirely paralysed; complete anæsthesia of the cutaneous surface generally—pinching and pricking calling forth no evidence of sensibility. The special senses were likewise found, from the time of her entrance into the hospice, greatly impaired; vision was nearly lost, and the speech much embarrassed; the paralysis at first affected the upper and afterwards the lower extremities; the physiognomy was heavy and stupid; the features fixed; the mind unimpassionable, and her emotions unaroused by the details of the murder when repeated in her hearing. Her disposition appeared mild, and no vicious instincts were evidenced. Most of her replies to questions were made slowly, in monosyllables; and she frequently prefaced them by saying, “I am told” this or that. Her knowledge of her age was dubious; she had been to school until twelve years old, and subsequently in “pension” for education, but had not learned to read or write, and could not add together more than the simplest figures. Her memory appeared quite at fault with regard both to events some time since passed and to recent ones. She repeated that she killed her infant because she was wearied with its

crying, and, in answer to inquiry, asserted she did not recognise she had committed a crime.

She had been occupied in looking after cattle, and thereby passed her time in much solitude, and had indulged in self-abuse, as she readily confessed. Her sister had visited her just before her confinement, and was struck by her indifference and absence of thought relative to the impending event.

The reporters restate facts, and collect as inferences, that this woman, possessing an hereditary tendency to insanity, and of deficient mental capacity from childhood, had a lingering, painful labour, which operated as a disturbing force upon her weak mind, and that this derangement manifested itself not only in the act, unreflected upon, and as to its criminality unappreciated, but also in the symptoms of physical disorder exhibited by the severe pains in the head, excessive dilatation of the pupils, sleeplessness and anorexia, followed by impaired vision and speech, and by paralysis of motion and sensation, at first in the upper and then in the lower limbs. Simultaneously the mind grew weaker, and succumbed to a sort of intellectual depression and apathy.

The reporters did not regard her as a victim of irrepressible impulse; nor did they believe the crime to have followed upon a sense of shame, or to have been committed with any view to moral or material advantage, or from passion, or with premeditation. The conclusion they arrived at was, that from the day of her confinement the whole cerebro-spinal system suffered, and she lost the free exercise of her faculties, and became consequently irresponsible for her actions. Moreover, that although under treatment considerable physical improvement had been attained, and the intellectual depression had declined, her mental condition remained so weak, that, under certain contingencies, she might again be guilty of criminal conduct: that it was therefore advisable to seclude her as dangerous, if at large, to society.

This decided opinion of the reporters did not prevail at the trial in the first instance, and the case was referred a second time to a jury, when it was finally adjudged, after two days' argument, that the prisoner did not voluntarily kill her infant. She was thereupon acquitted, and ordered to be set at large.

*Medico-legal Report on a case of "Reasoning Madness."* By Dr. Henry Bonnet.—The subject of this report was a man, named Lejeune, confined in the Maréville Asylum. He was sent to the asylum July 14th, 1852, when thirty-seven years of age, on the authority of the police commissioners of Nancy, and of the préfet "de la Meurthe." M. Morel, the then chief physician of the asylum, certified him as suffering from periodic mania, and subsequently defined the case as a type of instinctive mania engendered by

demoralising passions. The particular state was said to be marked by a passion for drink, so developed as in itself to constitute a malady, and to produce maniacal excitement, showing itself in incoherence of words and in irregularity of the actions. Lejeune had brought punishment in prison on himself, whilst in the army, by misconduct; he had insulted the magistrates, and asserted that he was persecuted by the police. In August, 1852, Dr. Morel reported him as having had an attack of insanity some years previously, and, since he had been under his notice, of having been seized with general delirium, disturbance, and agitation. This attack lasted several days, after which the patient became calm and tranquil, though the elements of mania were still latent in him, as in others having a like irresistible propensity to drink. His eye was glaring and haggard, speech jerking and slightly embarrassed. He could not realise his position, nor comprehend why he had been sent to an asylum; for though, as he urged, his conduct might have earned him a place in a prison, yet to confine him in an asylum inflicted dishonour upon him, and was an act dictated by the malevolence of the police, because he had betrayed their secrets, &c. The idea of persecution had gained hold of his mind, and suggested an explanation of what had befallen him. Not only were his intellectual powers injured, but also therewith his moral sentiment. Drunkenness was in his case not simply a vice, but an inveterate and irresistible habit, into which he, so to speak, instinctively fell. Not only was his reason temporarily affected, but there was a lesion of the nervous system which brought about a special delirious tendency that could only be guarded against by isolation and a radical change of habits. In August, 1852, Lejeune made a representation of his case to the local judicial authorities, and on the 11th of September regained his liberty. Fifteen days after, he fell into the hands of the police for drunkenness, and suffered a brief imprisonment; this punishment, however, effected no salutary change upon him, for he plunged into all sorts of debauchery, and soon again got committed to prison. When at large, the advice and reproaches of his friends only resulted in aggravating his vicious proclivities, and were attributed by him to persecution. He declared himself a misunderstood individual; his great qualities ignored by the Government, and his superiority unrecognised by a blinded society. He was proud, restless and irritable, followed up no project he took in hand, and could not apply himself to any sort of work. He gave vent to hosts of theories for the political and social renovation of society, assumed his superiority in talents above all others, and esteemed himself the only individual capable of giving advice in the affairs of his country. At the same time, he was constantly found in the low drinking-houses of Metz, in tattered and dirty clothes, and surrounded by people of the lowest class. To arouse discontent, and to make quarrels, afforded him gratification.

His frequently outrageous and improper conduct, his calumnies upon others, scandalous inventions, and various improprieties, brought him repeatedly under magisterial censure and punishment, but all correctional measures were lost upon him.

He did not restrict his mischievous and insolent conduct to the lower class, but extended it to those in authority and to his own friends, and at length so wearied out the préfet of the department, and every magistrate and other officer, that the préfet sent him back to the asylum in September, 1859, as a lunatic who compromised public order and security by his conduct. Two physicians gave certificates of insanity, and Dr. Auzouy, chief physician of Maréville at that date, made the requisite report of the case within twenty-four hours of admission, noting his previous confinement in the asylum seven years previously, his dissipation, his wasting his patrimony; his perversion of his intellectual endowments, and of some knowledge of the law that he had obtained, to devising schemes to gratify his hatred to certain persons; his slavery to his passions, which he would gratify at any cost; his mania for intoxicating liquors, &c. On admission, his speech was brief and jerking, he gesticulated wildly and was very restless, and presented all the symptoms of mania. In the following month (October), Dr. Auzouy recorded an unfavorable prognosis of the case, and the opinion that Lejeune was a very dangerous person.

He continued in the asylum, regarded as suffering with remittent mania, marked by the predominance of ideas of "chicane" (roguery). He constituted himself a sort of advocate and secretary to the other lunatics, stirred up discontent and insubordination among all around, and seconded attempts at escape. He was loquacious, puffed up with self-importance, fawning sometimes, and hypocritical; his reasoning devoid of judgment and discretion, and his writings demonstrative as well of his vanity as of his ideas of persecution. He also had remittent hallucinations of hearing.

"In fine," writes Dr. Bonnet, "I consider Lejeune to be suffering with '*folie raisonnante*,' with instinctive depravity. He belongs to that class of lunatics who, although at times possessing consciousness of their actions, cannot resist the primordial impulse, and are not content until they have attained their bad purpose." In M. Trélat's language, these lunatics are less readily recognised than others; they do not murder, it is true, but they kill in detail all those with whom they live. The "reasoning" lunatic has but one object, viz., to be free in order to indulge at his ease in the extravagance of his words and of his acts. The contrary to this marks the victim of curable insanity. He likewise loves liberty—he longs for it and demands it; but he does so with calmness, and submits to the will of the superintendent under whose charge he is placed. The truth of this parallel is proved by daily observation.

Unsociability, perversion of character and habits, the impossibility on their part of comprehending their own interests, and malevolence in all circumstances, are the distinguishing traits of these lunatics.

*Medico-legal Report of a Husband accused of the Murder of his Wife.* By Drs. Daviers and Billod.—The murderer's name was Charles, and the victim was his own wife. The crime was committed May 13th, 1863. The criminal at first asserted that his wife had died suddenly from disease, but at the same time exhibited much gratification at the event. This assertion was at once seen to be false: the woman had evidently been strangled, and the husband then essayed a lame tale of the partially accidental character of the occurrence during a quarrel; but, finding this contradicted, he admitted that he had first beaten and stunned, and then strangled her. He further pretended that it was done during momentary passion, and was not at all premeditated; but, on inquiry, it was clearly established that he had for a long time made up his mind to commit the crime, and to seize the first opportunity of getting rid of his wife. It was further brought out in evidence that he had often beaten her; had threatened violence, had talked of the means he would resort to to kill her, and fifteen days before the commission of the crime he had said to a midwife, "Come and see her: if she is pregnant, it is lucky for her; if not, it will be all over with her."

At this time Charles was forty-six years old, was by trade a joiner, and came of a respectable family, at one time well off. He had three brothers and one sister; but no member of his family had been insane, although all of them were highly emotional and excitable, particularly when under the influence of wine.

The prisoner had the reputation of being naturally an excitable man, and was so especially after drinking intoxicating liquors. Unhappily, he became addicted to strong drinks, and became correspondingly irritable, with so great a tendency to violence that he became a terror to his neighbours. He found pleasure in torturing animals, and would strike children without pretext. He suffered from painful dyspepsia, which probably resulted from his habits. He was proud, and a great boaster; but though he presented some signs of mental disturbance, most of his symptoms were referable to drunkenness. When brought into the presence of the body of his wife, he exhibited no emotion, although he hesitated to approach it.

The reporters state him to have been of the nervous temperament, weak in appearance, and pallid; his physiognomy melancholic, and the mobility of his features singularly great. They observed at once slight spasmodic contractions of the muscles of the face, and some embarrassment of speech, such as might be attributed either to paralysis or to the tremor from drink. His gait was steady, though

something of a convulsive character attended its activity. The grip of the hands was strong and firm. No dilatation of pupils. No disorder marked the dress or the cell of the prisoner, who, whenever observed, maintained the same attitude—the face turned towards one side of the cell, the head hung down, and the whole gesture sad and pensive. The attendants witnessed to alternate states of depression and excitement, the latter accompanied by a tendency to violence and to suicide. He was sleepless, talking to himself the greater part of the night, ate little, and dressed and undressed himself.

When questioned relative to his name, age, place of birth, and occupation, no febleness of mind was apparent in his replies. However, further interrogatories respecting his son, his son's age, present residence, occupation, means of living, &c., displayed a great extent of mental disorder, in which notions of grandeur, of ability to acquire wealth and to effect various extraordinary objects, were particularly prominent. The questions and answers put upon record by the reporters make this statement very clear.

The next questions to determine were, whether this evident state of delirium existed prior to the murder, and if the mind of the accused was under its evidence at the date of it; whether the delirium was simulated; whether, if being real, it was the result of drunkenness or of mental alienation at the period of the crime; and if of the latter, what form did it assume? and, lastly, whether the disturbance of the intellectual faculties was of such a nature as to deprive him of freedom of will, and to involve irresponsibility?

The existence of delirium prior to the murder was evidenced by the habitual state of mental excitement, with predominance of ambitious ideas, of vanity, of notions of persecution—by the decided tendency to violence, and also to hallucinations of hearing. His conduct in the leading particulars of the murder was in harmony with the character of the delirium. No ground whatever existed for the supposition that the delirium was simulated, nor could it be attributed to intoxication. An examination of the physical and mental features of the insanity of the accused resulted in the conclusion that it was general paralysis that he suffered from, and that, in response to the last query, it was concluded that he was deprived of freedom of will, and was, consequently, irresponsible for his actions.

Drs. Daviers and Billod preface their report by some general remarks, from which it appears that at the period of their first examination of the accused the existence of insanity was not pronounced. Some intellectual disturbance, and even some delirium, were discoverable; but their manifestations were vague and uncertain, and it was felt that an attentive and prolonged observation of the case was required. The difficulty of diagnosis was further en-



hanced by the knowledge of the habits of the prisoner. However, for a month previously to the drawing up of the final report, any possible doubt as to the mental condition was entirely dissipated; and the history, again, of the year since elapsed has confirmed the justice of the conclusions arrived at.

A remarkable piece of evidence is entered upon record, derived from a letter written by the criminal's son, a boy in his twelfth year. The reporters characterise this as a strange document—a marvellous example of *sang froid* and of insensibility written by a child—an anomaly of nature, and an instance of the predisposition to insanity among the offspring of the insane. This letter gives, in great detail, all that happened after the murder; the conversations that took place between the father and his child, the conduct of the father, and the history of the previous relations subsisting between the father and mother in past times.

*On the Effects of Insolation upon the Insane (Pellagra).*—Dr. Daniel Brunet undertakes in this paper to give the results of four years' observation on the effects of insolation upon the insane in the Asylum of Niort, and to examine the several hypotheses put forward relative to the causation of pellagra.

The Niort Asylum is a new erection, constructed after the designs of M. Philippon, made under the direction of M. Parchappe. It serves for the reception of the insane from the department of the Deux-Sèvres. It was not completed until 1855; it was built for 250, but now contains 380 lunatics, and is, therefore, overcrowded. This excess in population is allowed, as at present the department is embarrassed by the original cost of the building and has not the means to enlarge it.

Dr. Brunet gives a brief description of the building, from which we learn that though a new structure costing £20,000, it is very defective in its water-closet arrangements. The closets are built against the walls of the wards, and directly connected with cess-pools which have no outlet: consequently, they are reported as "almost constantly exhaling mephitic gas very detrimental to health."

Another defect attaches to the dietary. The daily rate of payment charged to the townships for the maintenance, care, and treatment of each lunatic is fixed at the low sum of one shilling. It is found inadequate; but the departmental authorities, to avoid adding too much to their existing debts, have sought to keep their expenditure as low as possible, and have unhappily provided very scant fare for the unfortunate inmates of the asylum. Dr. Brunet says the regimen is not so strengthening as it should be, considering the state of overcrowding. The allowance of bread is too small, and meat is served only five days per week. Maize forms no part of the dietary.

The mortality has varied between 20 and 25 per cent. in relation to the numbers under treatment.

The effects of insolation (exposure to the sun) are described as either acute or chronic. Acute inflammation of the skin is the first result, indicated by redness and pain with tension, and, when severer, by phlyctenulæ containing serum—in worse cases sanguinolent, and, finally, purulent. When sero-purulent effusion occurs, the superficial part of the dermis appears to be mortified. This solar dermatitis is commonly very topical, and unless severe the general health is unaffected; but if more violent, there is fever and wakefulness. It, however, does not seem to react upon the nervous system, though it may set up gastro-intestinal irritation with diarrhœa. It terminates by desquamation of the cuticle, varying in extent and by resolution, or it may persist in a chronic form.

The chronic state is characterised by reddish-brown discoloration of the skin, a loss of elasticity, and fissuring and peeling of the epidermis. The desquamation in slight cases is simply furfuraceous and painless; but, in severe, plates of skin are dislodged after acquiring the form of blackish crusts. Similar desquamation, but accompanied by deformity of the nails, is a consequence of herpes circinatus. The affection of the nails is not a symptom of dermatitis from insolation.

Withdrawal from the heat of the sun soon effects a cure, some discoloration of the skin, however, remaining. The lesion is especially noticed during the heat of spring.

Such are the leading particulars put forward by Dr. Brunet respecting the effects of exposure to the direct rays of the sun. The examination of opinions advanced relative to pellagra is his next subject. M. Gintrac represents pellagra to be characterised by three sets of morbid phenomena:—1, a special inflammation of the digestive canal throughout; 2, an erythema of the skin, accompanied by desquamation and fissuring; and, 3, a grave lesion of the nervous system marked by vertigo, tremor, an unsteady gait, a painful sensation along the spine, and a remarkable disturbance of the intellectual faculties.

It is now largely believed that pellagra is a general malady or diathesis. It is not a consequence of eating fermenting maize, for it is met with in countries where maize is not consumed, though it is always associated with a state of debility and with exposure to the sun. It is not a morbid entity, and the triple array of morbid phenomena is by no means of constant occurrence or of needful concurrence. The course of each group is independent, and the cure of one has no influence upon the others. The cutaneous symptoms may exist apart, or be only attended by slight gastric irritation. The nervous phenomena are produced by the direct action of the sun upon the cerebro-spinal axis. Individuals debilitated by poverty,

and by bad food, such as decomposing maize, are especially prone to suffer from insolation; but there is no predisposing cachexy connected with mental disorder. To make pellagra disappear, it suffices to protect people from too prolonged exposure to the sun, and to keep them well nourished.

Dr. Brunet is clearly no Parsee. Pellagra is a proof of the disease-working effects of the sun, and the mischievous luminary must, therefore, be avoided, especially by the victims of lunar influences whose cerebro-spinal system is not in first-rate order. Umbrellas and parasols must take a foremost place among the curative and preventive appliances of lunatic asylums; and work for the insane in the open fields, excepting during cloud and rain, must be set aside. Unluckily for the solar theory of pellagra, however, the denizens of India and of the tropics, where great Sol in full glory shines, are strangers to the malady, although besides the scorching rays so many among them support also the ills of bad nourishment and of maize-diet. Our opinion is, that Dr. Brunet has seized hold of only one small thread in the woof of causation of pellagra.

*Medico-legal Report on Madame R—*. By Drs. Parchappe, Girard de Cailleux, and Rousselin. This report is on the case of a lady confined as a lunatic in the Charenton Asylum, but concerning whose mental condition much dispute had for a long time existed among the members of her family. Her friends had formed themselves into two opposite parties, each obstinately bent on proving its own opinion of her case the correct one, and on attributing improper conduct to the other. The subject of the dispute had been for ten years in seclusion before the able physicians who prepared this report were appointed to examine into her mental state; not but that several *ex-parte* inquiries had been previously made, and several returns presented respecting the matter by Calmeil and others. We must content ourselves with noticing the *résumé* of the present report.

Madame R— had on five several occasions been placed afresh in different asylums, and each time under new certificates of her insanity. Three trials had been afforded to her, but a due regard to her own safety and to public security had necessitated her return to an asylum. A fourth attempt to restore her to liberty and to her home was also made; but at the time her son arrived at Charenton to take her, she was in a state of maniacal excitement, and the proposal had to be given up. During the ten years of seclusion, she was examined by six physicians at different times, but with one result—that, viz., of her being insane, and almost all concurred in regarding her as a dangerous lunatic.

It might be possible that during a remission, and for the period of an ordinary visit, a favorable opinion might be formed of her mental

condition; but the reporters assert that she is usually in a state of delirium, and that her mental malady, which assumes several forms, varies in character with great regularity, and without any rational interval, under the four following conditions:—1, mania with excitement; 2, congestive stupor; 3, melancholy, marked sometimes by suicidal propensities, and always by refusal to be dressed, to eat, &c.; 4, remission, with dementia, during which the memory shows signs of great weakness, and also with incoherence in the subjects of conversation.

Ordinarily, and in each phase of her malady, Madame R— suffers with hallucinations of hearing, and at times of sight and of smell. Further, during the maniacal paroxysms there is excitement of the organs of generation.

The reporters conclude that the patient had been rightly placed under control in an asylum, and that seclusion was still needed. At the same time, they considered that she might be removed from Charenton to the house of her relatives under sufficient guarantees for her supervision and management. Lastly, they rejected a scheme for placing her apart in a house with an attendant.

This report was placed before the court, and an order made for her unconditional discharge, the folly of which soon showed itself. The patient's mother claimed her discharge, and took her to her home; but within a week her friends had again to apply for her reception into an asylum, as she relapsed at once into a state of excitement, refused food, and became altogether unmanageable.

*Medico-legal Report on the Mental State of Sieur Lagarde, accused of Forgery.* By Dr. Legrand du Saulle.—The prisoner had associated himself in Paris with an adventurer named Grandin, who had previously to his arrival in that city been convicted of crime. The two had set up a sort of agency for the distribution of catalogues, engravings and papers, and professed to be acting under the authority of the prefecture of police. Various ambiguous plans were resorted to for some time to further their agency, and at length Grandin applied to an engraver to engrave a seal with the words, "Préfecture de Police—Division des Passeports." The engraver reported this application, and Grandin was taken into custody, when he asserted he was acting solely under the orders of Lagarde, who was thereupon apprehended. A search made in their rooms revealed various proofs of trickery and forgery. Lagarde denied the accusation of having instigated Grandin to the criminal offence, and the latter was known already to have been engaged in and punished for similar frauds.

Lagarde was thirty-seven years of age, the son of a retired captain, deceased. His mother was likewise dead. She was reported as having been mentally deranged: and Lagarde himself, whilst still

living in his native town, Vezilly, was looked upon as of unsound mind. He volunteered into a regiment of hussars, and served fourteen years in the army. The letters he wrote home to members of his family during this period convinced them of his mental derangement, a fact also borne witness to by his fellow-officers. He was of middle height, and his physiognomy was neither deficient in intelligence nor in character. He was well dressed, appeared to have much self-esteem, was loquacious, and recounted with emphasis and magniloquence his services in the army. According to his own statement, he had "typhoid and brain fever" nine or ten years previously, and lay some days in an unconscious state. It seems probable that he did actually suffer at this time from cerebral congestion and temporary hemiplegia of the right side; indeed, this half of his body is now weaker than the left. Whilst talking, although merely repeating his stories, every now and then a syllable of a word or a word in a sentence was stumbled over, the first or last portion of a word was repeated two or three times, and now and then a phrase left unfinished. Still, he went on with the next word or sentence, talking away with great volubility, but without any change of tone, &c. He was peculiarly calm, indifferent, and on good terms with himself and others; a state of things characteristic of the insane as contrasted with criminals. Allusion to the crime with which he stood charged excited no emotion or irritation. He reposed, well contented, on the rectitude of the judge; prison was not wearying to him, as he kept himself constantly busy with writing, and no reflection on his culpability and its consequences harassed his mind. His memory was clearly defective, and his notions of his own powers and importance very exalted. He pretended, for instance, that such was his knowledge of geography and of military administration, that he could direct the movements of an army through France with his eyes shut; although in fact he could not tell the distance of Paris from any of the principal towns of his native country.

A number of his letters and papers were put into Dr. du Saule's hands, and added materially to the conviction of Lagarde's insanity. They were evidently written with great rapidity; words were omitted, the ideas associated; numerous parentheses, marginal references interspersed; lines and words written here and there in stronger and larger letters; the formulæ of honour and respect greatly exaggerated, and especially so at the conclusion of some of his letters.

In forming an opinion of his case, the first thing to be borne in mind is his hereditary tendency to mental disorder. From his youth his intellect was regarded as feeble; and although he managed to perform his duties in the army for fourteen years, he was looked upon as mentally deficient; and in the certificate of good conduct handed to him when he left his regiment, he was stated to suffer from chronic rheumatic pains of the right shoulder, and from feeble-

ness of the lower limbs. Again, the effects of cerebral congestion in weakening the mind, in modifying the character, and in enfeebling the will, must be taken into account; and in the case of Lagarde the will had suffered more than the intellect, so that, whether from fear, or from his having lost all power to act for himself, as well as all energy and decision, he had fallen into a condition that subjected him to be led into any sort of crime or folly without a clear perception of its consequences or of his own responsibility.

Moreover, Lagarde was subject at times to noises in the ears, and, particularly in the state of half-sleep on getting to bed, to a sort of phantasmagoric visions of light and dark bodies, of clouds, of images of animals and various objects passing before him in rapid succession until perfect sleep arrested them. Lastly, it remains to be mentioned that Lagarde was extremely sober, and suffered from headache after taking only one glass of wine.

Dr. du Saulle's conclusions were, that Lagarde, though preserving the appearance of intellectual activity, has always been of weak mind; 2, that he is lapsing into a state of dementia, and already exhibits evident signs of paralysis; and, 3, that he cannot be considered responsible for his actions.

In conformity with these conclusions, a verdict of not guilty was taken, and the prisoner was transferred to an asylum.

The long orations by the chief psychological physicians of France, members of the "Société Médico-Psychologique," delivered at the various meetings of that society held throughout the year 1865, on the subject of the provision to be made for lunatics, would be well worthy perusal, and we should have been glad to have made an analysis of them, could it have been effected without neglecting our duty in reference to the original articles contained in the 'Annales Médico-Psychologiques.' Let us hope, however, that the Society will call upon some one or more of its officers to prepare a digest of them, capable of being transferred to our pages for the edification of those who have neither time nor opportunity to wade through some scores of printed pages in search of definite opinions and conclusions.

J. T. A.