

found in the cerebro-spinal fluid was again demonstrated, but no growth took place on culture.

There were no evident signs of disease of either ear which might point to a cause of the meningitis.

From the findings in the cerebellum it may justifiably be concluded that the vertigo was due to the lesions in that area. The Bell's paralysis seems to have been due to an involvement of the seventh nerve on its exit between the olive and restiform bodies.

I am indebted to Dr. R. M. Clark, Medical Superintendent, for permission to publish this case, and to Mr. A. H. Fann for his aid with the laboratory examinations.

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### Medico-Legal Notes.

#### REX *v.* FREDERICK JOSEPH STOCKWELL.

THIS case was tried at the Central Criminal Court, on July 21, before Mr. Justice Branson. The prisoner was a fireman, aged 31 years. He was accused of the murder of his wife, who was found dead in bed on the morning of June 21, near to her being a shovel with the stem bent. The prisoner was found in the kitchen, with an artery in his arm opened, and with a wound in his neck. He was removed to a hospital, and he there made the following statement: "I had a good skinful on the day previous. I went to bed with the wife at 11. I don't remember getting out of bed, but when I came to myself I was battering her head in. I was frantic, and said 'Here goes,' and cut my throat and opened an artery in my arm." The facts of the case were not disputed. Evidence was given that the prisoner had suffered several times from malaria, when on war service in Egypt.

Dr. W. R. K. Watson, medical officer of Brixton Prison, expressed the opinion that the prisoner was suffering from manic-depressive insanity. While under observation he had once got out of bed, and run round the ward, apparently in his sleep. Dr. Watson considered that, at the time of the act, the prisoner did not know the nature and quality thereof. If the prisoner thought at all, he probably thought that he was doing something quite different.

Dr. W. H. B. Stoddart took the same view.

A verdict of "Guilty but insane" was returned, and the customary order was made.

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#### REX *v.* GERARD ARTHUR MAXWELL WILLSHIRE.

THIS case was tried at the Maidstone Assizes, on June 28, before Mr. Justice Rowlatt. The facts were of a peculiar character. On

the evening of May 10, the defendant took a young woman, with whom he had only a recent and casual acquaintance, in his motor-car from London. He stopped in a wood near Maidstone, ordered her to undress, tied her hands behind her, she having nothing on save her shoes and stockings, and then blackened her with some kind of polish.

Precise particulars of the mentality of a man who perpetrated such a curious sadistic outrage would be of great interest. The defendant had been allowed bail at the preliminary magisterial inquiry, and no mental investigation had been made. At the trial he pleaded "guilty," and counsel addressed the court on his behalf. Information was given to the effect that the defendant, while on war service, had contracted trench fever, and that, since then, the slightest quantity of alcohol had a very pronounced effect upon him. Some suggestion was made to the effect that he had committed peculiar actions upon previous occasions, but no particulars were given. It was stated that he had been drinking heavily on the days preceding the offence. It would appear that he was sufficiently sober to drive the car from London.

It was urged by counsel that the defendant should be placed in some institution, under medical supervision. Mr. Justice Rowlatt, however, imposed a sentence of six months' imprisonment in the second division. Assuming the facts to be as stated, it would seem unfortunate that the defendant's medical advisers had not been able to induce him to place himself voluntarily under restraint and treatment before such a disaster had occurred. But the difficulty of persuading patients to adopt this course is well known. Failing this, it would seem to be a case in which the power, given by the Inebriates Act, 1898, to sentence a person convicted of such a crime to a period of detention in an inebriate reformatory might have been used with advantage. Such detention may be in addition to, or in substitution for, a sentence of imprisonment or penal servitude.

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DE FREVILLE *v.* DILL.

MR. JUSTICE McCARDIE, sitting in the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice on July 1, delivered a reserved judgment in favour of the claimant, Mrs. May de Freville, wife of Mr. G. P. H. de Freville, for the sum of £50—the amount of damages which had been awarded by a jury—against Dr. A. V. Dill, of Brinscombe, Stroud, for alleged negligence in certifying her to be a lunatic on June 9, 1926.

A stay of execution was granted, Mr. Singleton, K.C., who appeared for Dr. Dill, stating that his client considered it important in