

Feigned Insanity; with Cases. By DAVID NICOLSON, M.B.
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WHEN we find, as recorded in the book of Samuel, that the great Psalmist resorted to imposture and "feigned himself mad and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard;" we cannot be surprised if minds less gifted should, for whatever purpose, assume the character of a madman. The beautiful conceptions of Shakespeare unfold to us in its highest fulness the rôle to be sustained by the player who is "but mad in craft." We are told how Hamlet:—

Repulsed,
Fell into a sadness; then into a fast;
Thence to a watch; thence into a weakness;
Thence to a lightness, and by this declension,
Into the madness wherein now he raves,
And all we mourn for,

and how Edgar, amid all his witless jabbering, himself exclaims aside:—

My tears begin to take his part so much, they'll mar my counterfeiting.

Here we have, first, a truthful picture of the approach of insanity; and secondly, a happy instance of the struggle of the better emotions, which have to be subdued to make way for the objective manifestations of the simulator. The admirable delineations of *Feigned Insanity* given by our great dramatist, must have been conceived upon the basis of true madness, and with a view to plot-interest rather than to the contradistinction of the real from the simulated. He portrays the latter in its most complete form,—viz., where the semblance is mistaken for the reality; where, if I may be pardoned the paradox, madness is in reality simulated. But that it should be so, intellectual ability, histrionic talent, education and worldly experience must be brought to bear upon it; for does not Polonius say of Hamlet maintaining the deception, "How pregnant sometimes his replies are! a happiness that often madness hits on, which reason and sanity could not so prosperously be delivered of."

It is the talking of gibberish, unconnected indeed, but not always devoid of meaning or point, which taxes the powers of the simulator in such circumstances, and which is sure to betray him if dull and unlearned. He starts well perhaps, rambling and incoherent, but he cannot sustain it; he fears repetition, for he might make a suspicious failure even in that; his tongue falls short of words, so that he must either change the character of his case or give it up altogether.

This high form of feigning, where an intelligent being seeks, not improbably with good ulterior motive, to appear insane amid the ordinary relationships of life, will seldom be attempted. The difficult part must be well played, else failure and discomfiture are certain. The task that I have proposed for myself deals not with the high-born Hamlet and Edgar or with the sage Ulysses.

Solon and the æsthetic David feigned insanity at one end of the social pole: our prisoners, whether at the bar or in the convict garb, do the same at the other. The motive, the form assumed, the skill exhibited, the success attained, may be different at the two extremes or in any two cases; but in all, the manifestations are of a psychological nature. We have at work the minds of two individuals, the actor and the on-looker, and we have also a third set of mental manifestations, which, given out by the one, and scanned by the other, may be said to be foreign to both. In this mixture of phenomena, and in the natural complexity and indefinite character of the human mind in its sound and unsound conditions, lies the difficulty at once of the impostor and of the observer. The impostor, conscious of his own duplicity or doublemindedness, and watchful of the effects of his scheme, has doubtless a difficult part to play, but possesses at the same time an advantage in proportion as he knows his part and can act it well. The observer, suspicious it may be of appearances well kept up, is conscious of the elasticity and delicacy of the boundary line between sanity and insanity; he feels perhaps the responsibility of a decision lying with him, and while a doubt remains unsatisfied, or a test unapplied, he wisely avoids committing himself, and his temporary defeat, if it can be called so, is a most pardonable one.

The observing mind, when suspicions arise as to the actual state of the apparently mad, asks if there is any motive for imposture, and is thus carried beyond the external manifestations to search out the workings of a possible sane and prompting mind behind the scenes. To reap the benefit of

this hypothetical inquiry, the external relationships of the individual and his probable course of action under certain circumstances have to be ascertained, at least approximately; and to this end psychologists have some general estimate of a sane mind, and its modes of action under external influences. "We are enabled," says Dr. Maudsley,* "by virtue of the general laws of association (of ideas) in which all men agree, to predict the general course of human conduct, and to establish laws for the regulation of the social state. Within these general principles, however, there are numerous subordinate differences; the special character of an individual's association of ideas being determined partly by his original nature, and partly by his special life experience." And again (p. 124), "when it is said that a man's character is completely formed, we express thereby the fact that he has acquired certain definite combinations and associations of ideas which, firmly organized, henceforth avail him in the different relations of life. It is evident, then, that if we had a complete knowledge of the inner nature of an individual, if we could penetrate that most exquisitely organized fabric of thought, which by reason of his particular life-experience has been grafted on the original capabilities, it would be possible to foretell with certainty his mode of thought and conduct under any given circumstances—a prediction which, as it is, those who know a man best often fail not to make, with close approximation to truth."

It is through this general estimate of a man's probable action with reference to his surroundings, that we proceed to the classification of individuals, according to their type of mental organization. This classification varies of course with the grounds upon which it is made. That with which I deal at present results from the formation, in the course of human progress, of civilized communities, and has more especially the moral faculties for its basis. Society demands as the very essence of its existence an adherence to its established rules on the part of its members; and being self-regulative, it takes upon itself, with a view to its own preservation, the task and onus of detecting and punishing those whose conduct and actions are in opposition thereto. It expels repeated and notorious offenders, who by their own acts have forfeited their claim to its membership. This social expurgation gives rise to an important subdivision of the moral aspect at least of mind, as evidenced by the outward

* *Physiology and Pathology of the Mind*, p. 122.

behaviour. The class, eminently and distinctly criminal, thus formed, must no doubt be looked upon as affording evidence of some inherent difference from those who do not belong to it. The criminal must be distinguished from the non-criminal, and little investigation is required to show that this difference is due, not merely to the influence of external circumstances, but also to the mode in which the minds in question receive impressions from without, and to the particular character of those minds themselves. Morally, the criminal has much the same relation to the non-criminal, as intellectually (and generally) the imbecile or the demented has to the sane; not merely in the sense of the one occupying a position which the other does not, but in so far as the type of mind and its manifestations are different essentially. I speak, be it remembered, of those peculiarly and habitually criminal. It is now well established that a moral sense congenitally defective, or destroyed during a life-experience, may co-exist with an intelligence of at least average capacity. "It will not be denied," says Ray, * "that the propensities and sentiments are also integral portions of our mental constitution, and no enlightened physiologist can doubt that their manifestations are dependent on the cerebral organism." This being so, we cannot avoid the conclusion that the manifestations are alike liable with the organism to derangement and to disease. That a man may be morally insane, with intellect unimpaired, is a position that may now fairly be assumed to be without question. The existence of a moral obliquity and a moral depravity leading to the commission of extravagant or vicious acts is self-evident; but that they should ever so exist as to constitute of themselves a recognized form of insanity, and therefore of irresponsibility, was a thesis requiring proof and demonstration. Legal authorities especially were, and are, unwilling to give up their dogma that illusion or hallucination is necessary to the existence of insanity, and hence the question that often arises, not merely between doctors and lawyers, but in the minds of doctors themselves:—Is the individual who commits a particular act of violence a criminal, or is he morally insane? I cannot enter into it here, but the question is a very interesting one, its importance is daily becoming more apparent, and the results of its study more real. They are alike, the criminal and the morally insane, in so far as their behaviour is utterly at variance with the social standard—obligatory morality as well

* Jurisprudence of Insanity, p. 163.

as optional being set at nought. The affective manifestations of a mind intellectually sound, form a battle field slippery enough and elastic enough for many a wordy tussle: victory implies the prison or the madhouse, truly an awful and wretched alternative. Which is the more so to the intellectual being? Much, I am assured from my own observation, has yet to be done towards a proper recognition and treatment of these doubtful-minded characters. In prison they are most troublesome, and often under punishment, being the slaves of their passions or the dupes of their fellows. While being treated on the same plan as the others, treatment avails not with them, chastisement and advice are alike lost. Their life is spent in prison, and their influence there is most injurious. It seems to me that the advisability of their separation as a body from the bulk of our convicts is a matter well worthy of consideration. Prison is not adapted to them and they are not fit subjects for an asylum. They occupy a mid-path, and here principles of treatment could be brought to bear upon them which would combine at once the discipline and repressive measures of a prison and those moral influences which science has of late years so successfully adopted in the management of the insane. Their bodies could be exercised and work got out of them, while special attention would be directed to cultivating their minds and training them, as far as possible, to a correct appreciation of the standard of right and wrong.

It is really surprising how little it takes to unhinge the passions and change the whole demeanour of some prisoners who may hitherto have been well-behaved. For a time the man is lost in his rage, his reason may be said to have left him, he cares not what he does, if indeed he knows. The "latent devil" which we are told exists in the heart of the best of us, bursts forth with terrific violence. One prisoner, strong and healthy, I remember, whom I refused a dose of medicine, broke out in this very devilment without any words having passed between us, and smashed his window and everything his cell contained, roaring and execrating all the time. Having done all the destruction he could, he settled down and was quiet.

Another I have seen romping about like a raving lunatic in his cell, howling and blaspheming for a whole day, and tearing his hair in the most frantic manner, simply because a fellow prisoner had "peached upon" him. I know a third, thoroughly criminal, who has "the inglorious likeness of a

beast charactered in his face." He tells me that when quite young his parents turned him from their door, and that he was afterwards put by the doctor into a lunatic asylum "to be brought up." There he spent five years. During the last sixteen years (and he is now about thirty) he has been almost constantly in prison. Well, this man with the physiognomy of a horse, returns like a dog to his vomit, and by a voluntary application of this principle gets six meals a day out of the authorities instead of three. Nor is he particular as to the utensil from which he thus serves himself a second time.

I give these few illustrations out of many, merely as instances of the class of mind that one not unfrequently meets with in prison, and which it is necessary to bear in mind when prisoners are being treated of.

Among the many by-ways that a prisoner has to obtain his special ends, cunning and imposture are freely made use of. Of all modes of malingering that of feigning insanity is the most troublesome to the physician. It may be thought that imposture would readily be detected in such a class of men; and so in most cases it is. But when you have to deal with the tacit and strange conduct of one whose wilfulness is most determined, and whose feelings are unaffected by habits of the most disgusting and odious character, in combination with an intellect probably low, at least uneducated, and certainly unrefined, the facility of a diagnosis is much impeded. Again, the physician must for his own sake be careful, for action is taken with the man according to the opinion he gives. A rash judgment might unjustly entail upon the individual the stigma and punishment due to an impostor, or permit the feigner to be successful in the object of his deception. The study of feigned insanity is therefore really useful in point of practice, as well as interesting in itself psychologically.

There is a general regulative law of mind, whether sound or unsound, according to which an individual acts, and by the constancy of which, within somewhat arbitrary limits, the individual is gauged. But when a man in one state of mind feigns to be in another and distinctly different state of mind, the usual gauge is not so appropriate, and much difficulty often thus arises in arriving at a correct estimate of him. Some by-law would seem to be in operation—his individuality is changed in appearance. With a view to ascertaining the actual state of mind, we seek for a possible concurrence of certain external conditions, and of mental modifications which would so act the one upon the other, as to give birth to

peculiarity in the mode of outward expression. In ordinary life, we trace backward the condition of the apparently insane mind to some excessive strain or inherited taint, or perhaps to both, and a decision is comparatively easy.

But with the prisoner the case is altered. We have a man under circumstances distasteful and irksome to him, to escape from which there is nothing that he would not try. One means of release from the hard work, precise regularity, limited diet, and restricted intercourse of ordinary prison life, is insanity, and hence the attempts made to simulate it. When a prisoner comes under observation for peculiar conduct, the strong motives that he has for deception, whatever they may be, cause suspicion at once. These motives combine in a mind badly organized, and probably morally poor, with a determined and often violent self-will, and the result is that the insane condition, which is necessary to effect the purpose, but which cannot be induced at will (as bodily disease in some forms can) is feigned. In some such combination as this, under circumstances of compression, are to be found the concurrent agents needful to imposture.

The convict who feigns insanity, or who, in his own phrase "acts barmey," is (judging from the cases I have seen) of the average class of criminals, not intellectual enough to see the folly of his act and restrain himself, and not such an idiot as to be incapable of planning, and to some extent carrying out a scheme. His moral sentiments are, as a rule, much distorted. He is impulsive and wilful. He is pretty safe to be an old hand, a jail bird. His conduct in prison will not usually be exemplary; he will have shown some tendency to shirk work, and not unfrequently he is a "doctor's man," with his name figuring in the casual sick list. The less of this, however, the better for the success of his scheme. I have never seen an old man "try it on;" his life-experience has taught him a lesson in this respect at least; his practice however may be more healthy than his precept. The usual age runs from twenty to thirty-five, when the passions are most vigorous, and when the will has full sway, ill-fashioned, and impetuous. It is such a will as this that Dr. Maudsley has characterized as—"the explosive and dissipated display of an inferior, and mostly destructive emotional force," in opposition to that calm, creative will which is, "the quiet, self-contained activity of definite productive aim."

A convict who successfully simulates madness, and deceives

the doctor, is of course treated as really insane, *i.e.*, he is sent first to a prison in London, and thence in time to Broadmoor Criminal Asylum.

The circumstances or motives that induce a prisoner to simulate insanity may be put down as mainly three:—

First.—He may attempt it soon after his arrival in a particular prison, with a view possibly of getting an early start in favour of his being thought “cranky.” This is a weak policy and one that will rarely succeed; for although sudden and great transitions in circumstances may seriously affect a mind, there is nothing likely to do so in the removal of a man from a close prison to one where public works are carried on. It is unlikely that a criminal, after undergoing six or nine months of solitary confinement, without hurt, will be affected by madness on being permitted a freer, although restricted, intercourse with his fellows. If indeed the mind had been unhinged at all by solitary confinement, the change would naturally be recommended with a view to its restoration.

Secondly.—The prisoner gets tired of the work and the discipline of a particular prison, and is willing to effect a diversion by “acting barmey,” and thus procure his removal to London, whence, finding his game won’t work, or by a judicious appearance of recovery, he may be sent to some other prison. This removal *from* a particular prison may be said to be the leading motive. It may or may not be a matter of indifference where they are sent finally.

Thirdly.—The pretence has some relation to present punishment within the prison, whether as a wind up of an outburst of temper on being awarded a punishment, or with a view to escape a prolonged course of punishment. Motives may exist minor to, and apart from, these, but they will generally come under one or other head.

The form of insanity simulated, or rather the form to which the pretended symptoms are most akin, is a secondary, although not uninteresting question. The popular notion of a madman gives to him the maniacal character, where to be furious, noisy, and violent, are essentials. This may be assumed but it cannot be kept up. The individual may do, may overdo his part for a time, but nature gives way and bodily exhaustion prevails. Some of the characters of dementia are well counterfeited by prisoners; having made up their

mind to the pretence, they care not to retain a particle of decency, and give way to the most disgusting and filthy acts. The following cases, extracted from Annual Reports made to the Directors of Convict Prisons, will best describe the extremes to which some will go, and will show, too, that the "subjection of women," however much it may be understood, is not always easily attainable. In the Blue Book for 1859, Mr. Bradley, of Pentonville, gives the following case:—

Convict G. B. very soon after admission began to be idle, dirty, and insubordinate. His conversation was incoherent, and his behaviour absurd. He threatened the officers, and loaded them with abuse; he smashed his windows, broke his furniture, and tore up his clothes; he passed his urine in his dress, in his bed, and about his cell. He wore around his neck, fantastically disposed, a large piece of cloth saturated with filth. The loathsome condition of his person may be imagined from what has been described. There was no doubt of the case being one of imposture, and the prisoner was therefore frequently punished with bread and water in the dark cell, but without effecting the slightest amendment. At last he was sentenced to twenty days' confinement to his own cell, upon a diet of Indian meal—the special punishment. Before half this sentence had expired he was disgusted with the Indian meal, and despairing of success as an impostor, became rational and orderly, promising also good behaviour for the time to come.

Dr. Guy, when Medical Superintendent of Millbank Prison, reported the following cases, which occurred there. The first is in 1860:—

This woman had the strength of a man, and the agility of a monkey. She, sooner or later, burst all the strait jackets in use on the female side of the prison, repeatedly tore down the strong canvas of the padded cell with her teeth, and even broke down the ceiling of the cell. She said she would not behave well unless in association—*i. e.*, amongst other prisoners—and that neither kind words nor punishment should conquer her. Her previous conduct in three times assaulting her fellow-prisoners rendered it both unsafe and unjust to others to place her in association. She had also previously threatened and assaulted the officers, and had made several attempts on her own life. By a course of firm treatment, directed to the prevention of injury to herself and others, and the use of such restraint as would have been required if she had been mad, she was brought to confess that she had been wrong, to acknowledge the propriety of the course adopted, to express her gratitude for the consideration shown her, and to promise amendment.

Again he says—

In the past year (1862) two cases have occurred—one among the men, the other among the women, which, though they never deceived either the resident medical officer or myself, evinced a perverse ingenuity, and strange perseverance in disgusting habits, which, had they been practised anywhere else by any person not in prison, would have been considered as of themselves sufficient indications of insanity. The male prisoner, F. H., continued for seven months to conduct himself in such a manner as to require that both his person and his cell should be cleansed every day; and the woman, with the same initials, F. H., persevered in the same disgusting course for five months, during which she constantly put on an air of the most perfect imbecility and bodily helplessness; but at the end of this time confessed that she had been practising a deception, and expressed a hope that she should not be punished for her conduct. The treatment to which these prisoners were subjected as the natural consequence of their own acts, was such as might be supposed sufficient to deter any person from persisting in such courses.

And so it might!

A sort of semi-imbecile form of insanity is sometimes assumed, in which the prisoner, behaving quietly, tears all his clothes, lies naked on the floor, refuses his food, and acts the fool.

It would be vain to attempt any classification of pretended signs of insanity so as to compare them with the real indications of disease. Instead of doing so I shall, in the following cases, simply and briefly detail each, and mention points of character or of note as I go along, keeping in view the individuality which has actual foundation, rather than the mere sham appearances offered for our observation.

CASE I.—My attention was called one day to a boy, J. W., aged 19, of singular and deceitful character, who had made a trifling attempt to cut his throat, the result being a few scratches, not at all deep, on the left side of his neck. He is a healthy boy; but unwilling to work, and not unfrequently gets himself under report and punishment. Some little time after this he stripped himself naked in his cell, and made himself to all appearance mad, jabbering about seeing the Queen, and having an interview with her, and wishing her to be sent for “to take him out of this.” He went on in this absurd manner more or less for two days; but being kept in the punishment cells, he did not like it, and gave up his imposture. Another night, about ten months after, he stripped again quite naked, and rushed from his cell, calling out, “Black man! black man! oh, the black man!” and pointing as if

he saw his sable phantomship. He whined and quivered with his voice, and his body kept time to it by an up and down movement. He persisted in keeping his face towards a corner, and would give no answer to questions; but when spoken to sharply he stopped, listened, and then went on again. A very slight application of the galvanic current, which was readily applied, brought him to a halt. He declared he would give no more trouble in this way if he were let off; and he has not had a recurrence of the black man since. Although he would not trust himself to look one in the face, he was careful to watch anything that was going on, as when the battery was introduced. The peculiarity of this case is, that he repeated the imposture, and had done so more than once. It is unusual for the same one to pretend insanity repeatedly at the same prison. The attempt at suicide was of no gravity—a pretence in the hope of sympathy.

CASE II.—C. H., aged 28, son of respectable parents, but a very dodging rascal, and lazy, stripped himself naked while at work in the quarries, and rushed about in an excited and noisy manner. Was taken to the hospital. Will answer nothing when spoken to; but peers into one's face with a peculiar and even silly expression, which is aided by a partial squint. He repeats, in a rambling fashion, the words "father," "letter," and gesticulates as if asking for them. He keeps moving his body from one foot to the other, like a restless bull, and twists his mouth and jaws as if gnawing something. A few days in the refractory cells upon reduced diet effected a cure; he expressed his sorrow to me for what he had done, with a request that he might be at once allowed to go to his work. Such were the notes I preserved of this case. I found afterwards the entry "rather weak-minded" in the sheet that accompanied him to prison. His soft and unhealthy-looking face, cock-eye, and pury lips, together with a speech thick and sibilant, from profusion of saliva, favoured this view; but there can be no doubt he possesses a large element of the knave, and I am much of opinion that, notwithstanding his appearance, he is more the one thing than the other. Still had he tact and ability to develop a good scheme of insanity, there was much to help him. Unfortunately for him, he selected the excited form while his expression was more adapted to the low and vacant manifestations of the demented or imbecile.

CASE III.—Here the impostor took the form that was most suitable, and played the soft part that would be expected of an ordinary-going hypocrite. I was knocked out of bed one night to see a prisoner, J. S., who was said to be "in a peculiar way," and who had attracted the attention of the night officer by shuffling in his cell. His door was opened and I found him standing in his shirt looking upwards in a tender, beseeching manner; his lips kept measuredly repeating, in a subdued whisper, some word, which I found to be "Heaven." I questioned him, but got no answer, and I then ordered him to be taken to the infirmary for the night, and two officers led

him off. He made a great difficulty at first, as in moving forward his knees would not bend, and his lower limbs were fixed, so that his whole body swayed forward on his feet. I tapped him on the shoulder, and said that although he were out of his mind, there was nothing to prevent him moving his joints. He took the hint and walked properly. He was put to bed, and the night nurse reported that he sat there all night staring vacantly, and murmuring as already described. He would not speak, and affected to take no notice of anything. There was no doubt in my mind about the case, and in the morning he had a touch of the battery, under directions from the Medical Officer. This he by no means relished, but would promise no better behaviour. He was told that he would have a strong dose of it twice a day until he gave up his foolery. He did not like the prospect, and after thinking it over a little, he made a voluntary statement that he would behave himself, and requested that he should be allowed to go to his work. This request was not from enthusiasm in his work, but was due to a hope that by showing a willingness to work he might avoid being reported and punished. The principal feature in this case was the fixity of the limbs. I do not think it was intended as a part of his scheme; I believe it was an evidence of the tension of his mind, and as his mind was fixed intently in the one groove by a feeling of determination, so his muscles had their freedom of play checked by the unconscious action downwards of the same feeling. The suspense which overtakes the body when the mind is engrossed is an ordinary phenomenon, but we have it strongly marked here where the mind was intent upon a misrepresentation of itself.

CASE IV.—This case presents similar characters, and they are, perhaps, types of a certain class of cases where hypocritical quietness and devotion are the main conditions assumed. The man, M. D., had frequently complained to me of various ailments, none of which could be detected. He disliked his work. I was summoned to see him one Sunday evening, and found him standing in his cell erect, and in an attitude of great devoutness, with his head duly poised on one side, his hands clasped and extended, looking most imploringly upwards. He kept mumbling inaudibly with his lips as if in silent supplication. This had been going on ever since he had supper, some two hours previously. So earnest was he that he took no notice of the questions I put to him; and I fear I was uncharitable enough to jerk him suddenly out of his cell by the coat collar. With a rapid glance round to see how the land lay he got into position again. He was at once removed to the surgery and permitted to taste of the battery. He took it quietly at first, but the current of galvanism came to prevail over that of his thoughts, and he cried "Oh! oh!" I asked him if he would give up his nonsense. No answer. Out came the regulation button a little. "Now will you give it up?" "I'll try, sir." "I can't have any trying; will you give it up?" "Oh! yes, sir; stop! and I'll give it up." He then stood up among the officers, looking rather

ashamed, and began to talk of his mother being subject to similar attacks. I sent him off, telling him he was a disgrace not only to his mother, but to all his fellow-prisoners. I have seen little of him since.

CASE V.—W. K. had been a soldier, and was a man of most cunning and determined disposition, often under punishment, and very liable to petulant and quarrelsome outbreaks; he was constantly getting into trouble either with the officers, or with his fellow-prisoners. He had a sentence of seven years, and was very hopeful of being sent out to Australia. When he found that the final batch had been sent across the seas without him his disappointment was unbounded, and he resolved to do no more work here. He soon found a pretext for admission to hospital in a renal complaint from which he suffered. When getting nearly well he was about to be sent out to his work, when he assumed a fierce and demoniacal—I can call it nothing else—form of madness. He got very uproarious in his conduct, and abused the officers in the foulest terms. He splashed his cell, and besmeared his face with blood, which he obtained in astonishing quantity from his nostrils. His mode of operation was this: with a piece of twisted paper he poked and irritated the upper and back part of his nostrils, which were tender from previous ulceration in them; then hung his head out over his bed until his face was like to burst, and he was able to draw the requisite supply. He added to the effect of his variegated physiognomy by frightful grimaces, and the most horrible howling noises. These he intermitted and relieved by whistling aloud, and imitating the cries of various sorts of birds and beasts. Like a parrot, he often repeated in the same tone the words “Oh, yes!” or something of that sort. The mewing of the cat and the laugh of the hyena he counterfeited admirably. Being confined in a strait jacket, two of which he burst and rendered useless, he bumped his head, bull fashion, against the wall and broke the plaster down, so that he had to be removed to the padded cell. He there continued the same noisy game, was most insolent to the officers; but when I said anything to him or advised him, he was quiet and sullen. His look was something awful when he was at full steam, with bloody face and glaring eyes. His nights were spent partly in sleep, partly in roaring out at the top of his voice. Sometimes he would take a portion of his food, at others he threw it all over his cell or at the officer. He would refuse it entirely for days together. He was of a constipated habit of body, and his urine was very phosphatic; but these had no relation to his present state, as they had been noticed before. He continued in this way for about a month, and in the end he was cured by a flogging, from which he has derived great benefit. From being one of the most troublesome men in the prison he has become well-behaved. How inexplicable is such a desperate course! It illustrates a condition into which some prisoners fall: ill-behaved, idle, and disappointed, they are driven into a corner. Something of an extraordinary nature must be

done; not the result of a misguided deliberation, but more in the way of a passionate and violent ebullition, which is prolonged by a determined and untameable volition. W. K. was a man who would stick at nothing—cunning on the one hand, vicious and unsparing of himself on the other. On more than one occasion he considerably reduced his physical condition by a voluntary abstinence from food. When in proper humour, he is a useful and handy man, but most inconstant. Unlimited preaching and lecturing would avail this man nothing, although I have seen him shed tears when being exhorted quietly; nor, indeed, is he easily got at by punishment; humour him, and you may hope for his usefulness at least; but he is apt to overstrain this by some extravagant request, which, if not granted, risks the success expected. At present he is under control, having been beaten, and being now employed at easy work inside.

CASE VI.—Minds of a very narrow calibre may counterfeit aberration of the limited faculties they possess, and this is a case in point. The man, or rather the big boy, H. C., happens to have an intellect of this inferior sort which shows itself in a weak and almost silly expression of face, whose brilliancy is by no means enhanced by a set of scrofulous eyelids. Volitionally he is equally poor, and would make a ready dupe; and I am not sure but he was so in the present instance. One cold morning, while at work in the quarries, he stripped himself quite naked and ran about until brought in. When I saw him he was standing, still nude, facing a corner of his cell. I wheeled him round, and asked him what was the matter, but got no answer. I then asked, in a firm tone, what he meant by this nonsense. With a silly and half-terrified air he said, quiveringly, "It's all blood; it's all blood; I daren't put them on," pointing to his clothes. "Show me the blood." "It's all over my shirt." "Show it, then." He took up his shirt, and pointed in a mystified way first to one side of the breast, and then to the other. In answer to my query, he said that was all, and he could not put them on. He accounted for the blood being there by murmuring something about "doing it in the middle of the night." There was no blood anywhere. I sent at once for the galvanic battery, and after a few touches he said he would never do it again; and I sent him out to his work. He told the officer after, that the operation rather warmed him. This attempt was characteristic of the soft and easily-led-away character. He had for some time been complaining of his work. I was sure he was an impostor. I saw his assumed expression of fright change when I began to question him sharply. There was not the ability to carry out the determination.

CASE VII.—If I were to adopt the ordinary nomenclature in this history of cases I should say we now come to deal with one of pretended suicidal monomania. H. G., 21, a contemptible, sneaking, ill-conditioned creature, first brought himself under special notice by trying, apparently, to strangle himself. To attain his object he had tied his braces and his stock together, and then suspended himself by the

throat to the window. He was cut down before I arrived, but was now trying to make believe he was dead, and, to give him credit, he did it well. He made himself rather stiff, to be sure, for the recent event, but to the uninitiated his condition would certainly have given rise to the gravest apprehensions. There was no movement, and but a minimum of breath. Making up his mind to come round, he began a rattling noise in his throat as if it had been disjoined. Ultimately he assumed the air of a madman, with complete silence, and a half-wild and vacant stare from his sunken eyes. He was put in the padded cell, and invested with a strait jacket, with a view, as he was given to understand, to prevent his attempts at self-destruction. He had given forth his intention of dying here, and he felt sure he would. The fact was he was determined to do no more work, nor would he, if he could have helped it. Not appreciating the care that was taken of him, he permitted himself to recover from his mental malady. He effected his release from restraint by this means, but took to sickness and frequent vomiting, and managed so well that his condition was really weakened, although he made things appear worse than they were. When he was in this reduced state, he one day got annoyed, and burst into a violent temper, and required several men to hold him. This outburst and show of strength was ill-suited to his case, and he allowed a speedy convalescence, went to his work, and has behaved remarkably well. The intellectual as well as the moral tone of this prisoner is low. Fear of consequences only would deter him from doing things of a vicious turn, to which kindness might serve but to stimulate. If he were going on well under certain discipline, the worst thing for him would be to relax that in any way. He cannot be trusted with himself. There is a moral perversion.

CASE VIII.—G. H., a slow, thick-headed fellow, was detected in an attempt to steal a 12oz. loaf one Sunday morning, and placed under report. Disappointed at his want of success, and dreading punishment, he had planned what possible course was left to him to modify his circumstances. His evil genius was ready with ‘a pretence at hanging, and get to the infirmary.’ Accordingly the day is spent in maturing his scheme and making preparations. A piece of twisted oakum is found; and the unhappy man “gets himself up” just before the evening visit of the officer, who finds him suspended, or rather stretched up by the neck to a peg in his cell, high enough to appear awkward, but not by any means beyond the bounds of perfect safety and freedom of breath. Being taken to the hospital he sees the doctor—who is supposed to be in ignorance of the little affair in the morning—and declares that the ills of this life are too many for him to bear up against, and that he has a fixed determination to get out of his misery by doing away with himself. He is very desponding, and won’t be cheered. and is very desirous to impress everyone with his unhappy condition, He does not commit himself to any active show of insanity; he is sane enough not to try, for he knows he has not the capacity. After a few

days of "observation," he is discharged, with a second report for having feigned suicide. Such is not an unfrequent case. Being caught offending, they try some means to escape, and often "jump from the frying-pan into the fire." A blunt intellect, afraid to face consequences, often seeks a shelter from anticipated punishment by cowardlike rushing into some act that will serve to modify, even at the risk of aggravating, the previous offence. In this "melancholia with suicidal tendency" sympathy might also be an object. It is to be borne in mind that with some an offence of a more or less grave character might drive to a real foolish act, but in this case I am sure it was a pretence.

CASE IX.—W. B., a vicious fellow, had pretended to suffer from different bodily ailments, and was often under punishment for in-subordinate conduct. During one period of punishment he began to act the part of a madman by refusing his food and persevering in it. With great sullenness of temper he kept up a cool and obstinate demeanour. There was no raving or violence at the outset, nor was there the appearance of straining to act a part, and really, if he had not been a suspicious character, there was that about his case which would tend to banish the idea of deception. He went for several days without his food, giving out as his reason that poison had been put into it by some of the authorities. His bowels acted, and he slept at night. His imposture being seen through, he had an application of the galvanic battery one morning. He took it well at first, but soon began to kick and bite, and roar out that he was Beelzebub, king of hell, and certainly might have passed for that prince of devils. The expression of his face became something awful; the demon-like leer that came over it and seemed to light it up, I shall not soon forget. He required six or seven men to hold him, and remained unvanquished. He slept well all night, and took his food in the morning, but almost immediately afterwards began to rip up the sides of the padded cell. His conduct was now violent, and he tried to bite and kick all who came near him. He was very abusive, and had to be restrained by the strait waistcoat to prevent him assaulting those who approached. A repetition of the battery a few days after proved too much for him, and with some appearance of shame he confessed his imposture, and promised amendment. Such a character as this would only be too glad to be thought insane at any cost, if he could thereby gain his end; nor would he scruple to inflict severe injury upon anyone. This man has a most vicious disposition, with strong determination. I find that when he received his sentence of seven years' penal servitude he got so violent in the dock that the judge at once added five years to his sentence. He not only assaulted the policemen in charge of him, but attempted to get at the magistrate, whom he abused roundly. He has been frequently under punishment since his imprisonment for assaults made on warders. I find, too, that when in Horsemonger Lane Gaol he feigned insanity with a similar unsuccess-

cessful result. How are we to account for such a course of action? The whole known tenor of his life points to the co-existence of defective moral faculties with an intellect quite up to the average standard. A curious question is here evolved:—Can a man morally insane, while in one of his impulsive moods, counterfeit symptoms of ideational insanity? The query takes us into a complicated field. The outward impulsive actions of one labouring under affective insanity vary in their destructiveness or atrocity in proportion as his deliberative volition is able to exert its healthy and restraining power. Dr. Carpenter says that “in so far as the course of his thoughts and feelings is the mere result of the action of external impressions upon an organisation having certain respondent tendencies, must Man be considered irresponsible for his actions, his character being formed *for*, instead of by him; but in so far as he can exert a volitional power of directing his thoughts, and controlling his feelings, may he rise superior to circumstances, and make the most advantageous use of the intellectual faculties with which he may be endowed.”* In such a case as the question implies we have an organisation with *insane* respondent tendencies, morally, and therefore an individual so far irresponsible; but we have also, superposed upon that organisation, an intelligence capable of correcting, or, at least, modifying those tendencies; but which may be employed, as under ordinary circumstances it is employed, in developing a scheme of deception and misrepresentation. The volitions may be so far submerged in the instinctive impulse as to destroy the responsibility, or they may be so far exercised by a reasonable intellect as to preserve it.

Professor Bain, in his work on “Mental and Moral Science,” p. 395, thus touches the subject: “There is a middle condition between the sane and the properly insane, where motives have not lost their force, but where the severest sanctions of society, although present to the mind, are unequal to the passion of the moment. Such passionate fits may occur, under extraordinary circumstances, to persons accounted sane and responsible for their actions; if they occur to any one frequently and under slight provocation, they constitute a degree of moral inability verging on the irresponsible.”

Arriving at this conclusion from an examination mainly of healthy manifestations, the able philosopher is, I think, somewhat over-cautious in taking the moral inability here indicated only to the *verge* of the irresponsible. Had he said “amounting to” (possibly, at least) instead of “verging on,” evidence would not have been wanting to support him in the assertion.

We have already seen that moral depravity, the “insane temperament,” or even moral insanity, may co-exist with healthy intellectual powers. Dr. Maudsley has well illustrated this, and gives the following: “The extremest case of moral insanity which I have seen was in an old man, aged sixty-nine, who had been in one asylum or

* Principles of Human Physiology, p. 456.

another for the last fifteen years of his life. He had great intellectual power; could compose well, write tolerable poetry with much fluency, and was an excellent keeper of accounts. Morally he was utterly depraved; he would steal and hide whatever he could, and several times made his escape from the asylum with marvellous ingenuity. He then pawned what he had stolen, begged, and lied with such plausibility that he deceived many people," &c. Prison had been tried with him many times, but unsuccessfully. Being morally mad, he could yet do all that I have quoted, and much more. I am certain he could have feigned insanity—ideational insanity.

If we grant that our hero, W. B., is morally insane (defective he certainly is), and at the same time of fair intellectual ability (which he is), I would say that he being under pressure or punishment, and without adequate means of gratifying his ordinary violent propensities, his moral obliquity, of whatever degree, shows itself in a burst of temper, which being guided—or misguided—by an intellect influenced by motives, expends itself in an attempt to simulate insanity with unsound ideation.

Curiously enough we have W. B. twice undergoing some such process as this.

CASE X.—E. M., 21, avowedly devoid of religious belief, made a slight attempt to hang himself in his cell with his braces. When I saw him he presented a wild and restless appearance; he kept constantly calling out about a black man coming to kill him, and rambled about a coffin, hell and brimstone; he had certainly an aspect as of one in a fright, or having just been startled by a fearful dream, but he constantly harped upon the same few words and could not be made to change them; he, as it were, would not allow himself to be spoken to or be calmed and kept up a constant bodily motion—he was evidently a dodger. A night's restraint in a jacket tamed his exaggerated emotions, and next morning his demeanour was quiet and settled; he however, expressed his determination to destroy himself on the first opportunity as his work was too hard. This he asserted very frequently, but no second attempt was made although he had chances. A firm but excitable character. His attempt at suicide was so trifling that any real cause for it must have been weak; whilst the exalted state of the emotions that followed was certainly unnatural, if it was melancholy that impelled to self-destruction. Again, it is a very simple matter in the face of being reported for feigning suicide and madness, to evince a determination to destroy one's self, it being known or fully expected that such precautions will be taken to prevent it as will serve to delay or annul the report. Here at least it was successful, for he was discharged to his work on promising to conduct himself well for the future; and he has done so. Apart from the question of intention of suicide, it is sometimes expedient to give these men (of indifferent moral control) another chance without submitting them for punishment, for by this means they will go to work willingly,

knowing that they have been favoured in so far, and they will struggle to keep from misconduct, lest the old affair should reckon, or turn the tide against them; but it would not do very frequently to let the prisoner off without an admission of his guilt, for on any after occasion the previous occurrence being referred to, might tend to embarrass an investigation into his case; besides, the probability of punishment restrains imposture.

CASE XI.—C. M., 21, a man whom I had never before seen, made a tremendous row in his cell one night about ten o'clock, and wanted to get "at him to kill him;" the imaginary individual being apparently some short distance off; he was excessively violent and required several officers to hold him; he had a peculiar broad cast of countenance with a heavy forehead, high cheek bones, and eyes unusually far apart; his body was in constant motion, and his aspect wild. The night was very close and warm, and the officers perspired greatly in their efforts to hold him, but the prisoner's skin, notwithstanding all his exertions, felt dry, not to say cool; there was nothing notable in his pulse. I thought his case at least doubtful; I gave him a sedative. His violence was controlled by the application of the strait jacket, and as occurred to me after, he ceased his nonsensical talk at the same time. Next morning he was quiet and evidently did not like his confinement, he kept a determined silence, but his expression was natural. His tongue was soon found when the galvanic current searched him. He has given no trouble since. In this case I was at first deceived, in so far as I leant to the probability of his being insane. In coming to a conclusion at first sight as to the actual state of a prisoner's mind under such circumstances, it is necessary to be careful, for prisoners do at times go mad, and some do act very well.

How readily may a man's mind, left to itself in the darkness and foreboding atmosphere of a prison cell, be unhinged by an accession of terror, irresistible, self-aggravating, and unutterably painful! An oppression greater than of a thousand nightmares steals over him and bears him helpless beyond himself,—and heavens! what more? A breath of air, not hot and loaded with devilish essences, a gleam of light, not phosphorescent or to be smelt sulphureous, or a manly voice and presence, not of hissing spectres or howling demons, is needed to allay the fearful and overwhelming turmoil; anything to satisfy him—that he is in the body, a body terrestrial and with earthly surroundings. Such cases are easily supposable, and I have seen a few. I do not at present remember a case, where in prison real madness first exhibited itself in this violent and noisy demonstration at night; such are no doubt possible, but the point is not unworthy of notice. Quieter forms occur without attracting particular attention, *i.e.*, the peculiarity may first show itself to observation in the morning.

CASE XII.—E. B., æt. 30, was the most thorough and the most shameless malingerer I ever came across. Not a dodge but he has tried. Paralysis, hæmoptysis, diarrhœa, headache, chest disease, fac-

titious sores and abscesses were among his many attempts. He was in fact always malingering, and it is difficult to find a pause in his history. The first time that I remember his doing the "barmey" trick was but a slight attempt, and more by way of variety, I believe, than with anything particular in view. It simply consisted in his saying something absurd in course of conversation about his food and work, and the assumption of a silly expression; conditions suspicious enough of real evil under ordinary circumstances, but of the opposite when Master B. was the individual. However, after a prolonged course of misconduct with noise and tearing up of his clothes, he was put aside for a little counter irritation with the cat. He then took on a form of madness very peculiar and not less dirty. His first off-go was to plaster all his cell with his fæces and then trot round and round among the filth until it was baked quite hard into the flooring. Being of a musical turn of mind he sang in his solitude a series of lively and jaunty airs, mostly, I suspect, in the hope of relieving his senses from the uprising odour. Stopping now and then he would look upward to some part of his cell in a triumphant and admiring manner, or else, with arms a-kimbo, the attitude would be more melodramatic and meditative, the gaze being fixed on the ground. When spoken to, he said with a cough and the pleasantest of voices, "Ah, yes! You see my little palace, I like my little palace, don't you? Wouldn't part with it for a world! Oh! no, no, no, my little palace." Then off he went trotting and skipping with great self-satisfaction. He took his food and, I presume, slept well, for he was quiet at night. He distinguished the night from the day. With little variation he continued thus for nearly a fortnight, at the end of which he got his two dozen and something else to think about. Since that he has behaved wonderfully for him, although he still has at times his, "Cough, sir, and pains in the chest," which he describes in the most piteous and whining tones. A detestable hypocrite, and devoid of any feeling of shame. A lie I should think was more congenial to him than the truth. Most persevering in his schemes, but hates work. Had been a soldier and branded with B. C. (bad character), which he has adroitly turned into B. O. the first two letters of his name. Has been repeatedly in prison. A hopeless specimen.

CASE XIII.—W. S. began in a fit of temper, and tore up his clothes and went about passionate and sulky in his cell. When spoken to, he was abusive and grumbling, and tore a second time the clothes that were provided for him. He had a general appearance of melancholy, but broke out into violent and angry fits, making loud roaring noises and smashing everything in his cell. He continued this for several weeks and gave a great deal of trouble. He then got tired of this, gave up his violence and noise, and took to a quiet and sullen demeanour and refused his food. For ten days he took no food except a few ounces of bread on one occasion. When asked why he wouldn't take it, he simply said "I can't." On the eleventh day I

ordered him a beef tea enema, and told him he should have one two or three times a day. He did not like this mode of being fed and required no more than the first. He took all his diet the same evening and after a while he went out to his work and has continued at it ever since. This man was of a grumbling and irritable disposition, and excitable.

CASE XIV.—This case has much in common with the last. W. G. was undergoing punishment for some misdemeanour, but had never given occasion for notice. One morning, the officer, on opening his door, found him lying naked on a square heap of rags which he had made by tearing every stitch of his clothing into pieces about three inches square. These pieces he had laid with great regularity one upon the other and formed the cushion upon which he rested. He answered questions by growls or not at all, nor did he take any food. His only covering was a shirt with which he had been provided, and he continued this absurd conduct for two days. The galvanic current made him give up his nonsense.

This case and the last occurred when the men were under punishment, and in both the foolishness was shown in a somewhat similar manner. The force of passion was expended in each case in tearing the clothes; in the one, violently and furiously, in the other, secretly and methodically, with an ulterior object in view.

CASE XV.—W. H. had not been in this prison a week ere he began to grumble about his work, and demand a change. He got none, as he was quite strong and healthy. At first he was inclined to take it up angrily, but one day, in a more communicative humour, he told me about his having served as a soldier in India, and that while there, in a struggle, he had been knocked down by a blow on the head from the butt end of a musket, and had been liable ever since to suffer more or less with pain and peculiar feelings, which he could not describe, in his head. He could not show me any mark, and I was not satisfied with his tale; he had forgotten many points about places, and altogether his story lacked honesty, and would not bear cross-examination. Finding that his grievances were unheeded he became sullen, and said he wished he were dead. He spoke mysteriously and rather threateningly about “doing something,” and “doing for some one,” so that he might be hanged. He grumped and had a hesitation in his speech, indicating not a local defect, but a tardy flow of idea. For instance, he gave himself an absurd age, and when asked what he was in prison for he said he never was in prison, and then, when pressed, that he was in prison for another man; a little more pressing brought out that he happened to be passing a window at the time when some man took a watch. He answered questions, but they had to be repeated more than once before he would do so; he looked one in the face steadily for a time, but then his eyes wandered away; he became very slovenly in his person, and would hardly do what he was told. He had a hard and vicious aspect, and was just the man to commit a cowardly assault on any one

against whom he had a grudge; nor would he care what the result was.

Now, although there was much of the improbable in his story, there was much in the whole case and appearance that one would expect to meet in a form of insanity that gradually comes on in prisoners of a low moral type. It requires special watching to discriminate, and the individuals are often of the sort that require to be "let down gently," and allowed to return to their work whenever they would indicate that they are willing to do so. In this way he was treated.

CASE XVI.—This case never got beyond the first stage. I did not see it; it was of such a transient character. G. F., a new comer, was under punishment, and one cold, foggy morning stripped himself naked, and peering into the ventilator of his cell kept crying out for some little time, "Ah! there you are; I see you; there he goes!" and such like. This attracted the attention of the officers, and he was watched. The prisoner's discovery seems to have brought him no further satisfaction or recompense; but as he stood rather in a draught, he seems to have found that it was rather chilly, and his ardour abated. He quietly and spontaneously put his clothes on, and appeared as if nothing had transpired. This may probably have been either the beginning of an attempt feigned, but lacking vigour of determination, or a preliminary to a more complete effort, which, however, has not yet come off; more likely the former.

CASE XVII.—J. C. had not been long in this prison. One morning at the Roman Catholic service he got up and shouted out something about "going to hell," and thus came under observation. The first few days he was rather noisy, but he settled down into a quiet demented condition. He crouched in the most abject manner in the corner of the padded cell. When pulled out of this and raised up, his legs gave way under him, and getting on the floor again, he crawled in the most idiotic fashion on his side and elbow towards the corner. There he lay crouched up night and day, taking not the slightest notice of anything or anyone, with his arms bent across his chest, often clutching in one hand a piece of bread, a few crumbs of which he might now and again take into his mouth. Beyond this, he took no food for several days. He would not speak, but made a slight hissing noise through his teeth and mumbled with his lips. He would not raise his eyes, nor permit anyone to look at them by raising his eyelids. His face was pale and had a silly expression. He resisted an application of the battery, merely crying out in a moderate voice, "Mr. Lowe, Mr. Lowe." He kept up his part for a fortnight. I treated him with great apparent unconcern, and told him that he might go on just as long as he chose, that it was quite immaterial to anyone what he did, and that he was only injuring his health. Beyond this I said nothing and pretended to take no notice of him. One morning I asked if he was getting tired of this, and said if he didn't give it up very soon he should have such a warming as he would

never forget. He made no answer; but in the afternoon he got upon his feet and said to one of the warders that he was better, but felt very weak. Next morning he asked me for something more to eat and was quite rational. He expressed no regret at having acted the fool, but said that there was madness in the family, and that his mother was at the time in an asylum. I must say that this man's acting was very deceptive when taken by itself. It would be impossible, I think, to approach nearer to the abject, crouching, senseless conduct that characterizes some cases of dementia. His pulse was quite natural, his bowels constipated, being hardly open all the time. He kept the same position, and by a movement, almost mechanical, slunk into his corner. He was slovenly, and refused his food, and kept up a stupid mumbling, and sibilant, and almost inaudible sound with his mouth. His case changed in character, however, in coming from the noisy state down to this, and his refusal to look up or allow his eyes to be opened was against him. Since he went to his work I have not seen him.

CASE XVIII.—The possibility of feigned insanity merging finally into the real malady must not be overlooked. Coche, a French, author, says, "*Il est aussi dangereux d'imiter la folie que de contrefaire l'épilepsie, toutes deux pouvant se développer réellement.*" One or two cases have been given in illustration of the transition. I have seen only one case which I could with any confidence detail as being of this nature. In a case of the sort it would be rash to make a positive assertion, however strong one's opinion may be. No one will deny that an effort, a strain is needed on the part of the mind seeking to misrepresent its actual manifestations, and make himself out to be insane; and the prominence of mental strain, no matter in what direction, as a cause of insanity is well known, the stress being of course in excess of the mental capabilities. Seeing then that there is a strain upon the mind of the impostor, self-imposed indeed, but nevertheless a strain, may it not come to be an excessive one, and may it not result in a shattering and destruction of the healthful cognitive energies? The case of W. D., aged 20, exhibited many points at first indicative of pretence, while the result was decided insanity and death. This prisoner had frequently pretended bodily ailment; he did not like his work, tried to evade it, and ultimately got under punishment. There had been previously nothing further noticeable in his character. Bodily he was healthy and well nourished; there was a boyish expression in his face, but no indication of intellectual weakness; he was in every way of the ordinary cast of individual as far as appearances went. Having refused to work he was under punishment in the way of reduced diet and seclusion for several days; during this time he took on a very taciturn behaviour, stripped himself naked, and lay on the floor of his cell. He became sulky and silent, and only gave abuse to the officers when they spoke to him; he went on like this for ten days, and then became more sensible—put on his clothes,

and promised to go out to work when I offered to put him in a light labour party. He went out to this, but was brought in the same afternoon as he would not work, and caused the other prisoners to laugh and misconduct themselves. I pressed him for his reason for not keeping his promise, and he said he was ashamed to work and could not go out among his fellow prisoners; he gave me the impression at the time that this was owing to his having acted the fool. He was taken into the Hospital under observation; at first he sat quietly, occasionally laughing and making noises with his mouth; he gradually came to have restless nights, and would sometimes get up and try to dress himself; afterwards he was constantly grinning and requesting to see the Priest; he said he was a Catholic and not a Protestant, and reiterated this over and over again to everyone. There was a look of shame about him, and he told me he had been 'abusing himself' a great deal of late; he denounced the other prisoners in the ward and told them they were scheming. Real madness had now taken place of suspicious appearances, and he got noisy and inclined to assault the other prisoners, so that he had to be put by himself; he rambled and talked constantly, detailing scenes of absurdity and obscenity. He was ultimately sent to Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum—where he died.

There was much in the outset of this case to favour the idea that he was an impostor; his early pretences to bodily illness, his stripping naked and refusal to go to work, his general silence and sulky conduct towards the officers, and his quietness at night before admission to Hospital form a set of symptoms, which taken together, and in prison, are very strongly suspicious. And when we add to this the fact that during this first stage, he intimated in private his wish to go to Millbank prison, "as he would be all right there," our suspicions are supported by very powerful evidence of motive and of scheming, viz.,—that of the man himself. He knew he would be sent to Millbank if thought insane. Taking it for granted that these symptoms were feigned, I should think that the repeated 'self-abuse' proved too much for a mind already strained and disappointed. I repeat that it is necessary to take the early symptoms as a group, for singly they might apply either to real or simulated madness, while, as a body, they favour the latter as the state of the prisoner. The character of the symptoms and of the man's conduct was at first quite different from what it was when he became actually insane.

A few remarks on Feigned Insanity among prisoners, and I have done. The scope for demonstration or peculiar behaviour in prison is limited. A person in ordinary circumstances, or a soldier feigning, has his part to play in his usual relationships and among his acquaintances, and can be gauged accordingly; while the prisoner is either in a cell by himself, or, if among others, always under the eye of an officer. The

field of observation is wide in the one case, narrow in the other; but there may be an equal difficulty in them as far as detection goes, if the physician has to trust mainly to the facts that he himself, or perhaps a trustworthy subordinate, discovers. In either case it is necessary to treat the man more or less as insane in order to make out his sanity and his imposture. We are liable to be thrown off our guard by the extreme length to which the impostor goes, and this in itself indicates a mind of defective moral tone. The very low type of the thoroughly criminal mind, naturally bordering on the unsound state, necessarily weakens the otherwise striking contrast afforded when the threshold of sanity has been crossed; and the physiognomy of the individual is wanting in that reflective expression that betokens the well-ordered mind. The prisoner's physiognomy is more at home with certain of the lower emotional or impulsive expressions, as of anger, cunning and resentment, and these are of value to him in his efforts at deception. Notwithstanding this, he cannot give to his maniacal impersonation that depth and power of feature which, in all its changeableness, marks the maniac. When he subsides from a paroxysm, the feigner can scarcely get beyond a stolidity of countenance that betokens nothing of the inner workings of an exaggerated mental condition. If we could overlook the state of the eye, many prisoners could approach closely the abject demeanour and void features of dementia. Melancholia does not suit the prisoner, or it does not occur to him as likely to serve his purpose; very frequently after a pretence at hanging he will begin a tale of woe and wretchedness, but he does not lay himself out for a course of deception. The completeness of the intellectual aberration is a weak point in the insanity of the schemer, and one which he often pays great attention to. He thinks he ought not to permit even the glimmerings of reason. He will not answer questions at all, or if he does his replies are untruthful or absurd. Again there is an unnatural variableness in the character of the symptoms displayed, and several forms of insanity may be indicated in one case. The feigning prisoner in his desire to attract notice usually resorts to excessive means, and that for two reasons; he may think some extravagant act is necessary to his part, but he knows besides that if he merely does something a little out of the common, he will come, not within the doctor's range, but under the governor's notice for misconduct. To strip naked as a sensational outset is a favourite notion. This is the most extravagant, and at the same time the most

harmless thing he can do. He may tear up his clothes or smash whatever he has in his cell, but punishment is thus involved. Midnight is a favourite time for the violent to begin. Everything is then quiet, and he is sure to see the doctor. The noisy or demonstrative form is usually, as might be expected, of short duration. It will be readily understood how impossible it is for a man to sustain for any length of time the character of the raving maniac, whose incessant and unwearied activity (now-a-days of comparatively rare occurrence) is a puzzle to the gravest minds. Look at the exhaustion that marks the effort of the actor on the stage, who certainly brings all his powers to bear on the representation. When, instead of making a frantic show of emotional exaltation, the feigner subsides into a silent apathy, with behaviour abject, debased and filthy, his void intelligence and blank expression will, for a time at least, try the diagnostic skill of the well-tutored alienist. The learned Dr. Jacobi, director of the Siegburg Asylum, Prussia, was engaged, we are told, to examine Reiner Stockhausen, who was accused of theft and suspected of simulating insanity. He declared after several months' observation that he was afraid to give an opinion; later, that the accused feigned insanity; later still, that he was deceived himself and the accused was really mad! Who can say he will not be deceived?

The diagnosis or detection of feigned insanity rests not upon any individual signs; a group of conditions and manifestations are necessary. Suspicion is, in the great majority of cases, first excited by the existence of a motive for deception. Feigned insanity and motive cannot be dissociated; the former necessarily implies the latter. Frequently with the prisoner there is some immediate circumstance that urges him to attempt imposture. He does not introduce his attack by any premonitory signs such as often mark the approach of the real disease. No doubt an irritable temper may have brought him first under notice and punishment, through which he may come to practise the deception; and this must be borne in mind. But he will not show the restlessness and eccentricity of one whose mind is gradually giving way; he almost invariably becomes suddenly and completely mad, and calls attention to himself by some most extravagant proceeding. Conversation, a good test, is usually avoided by him; and he will generally turn his eyes away, or shut them, taking an occasional peep round. It would be a needless task to attempt to lay down definite rules for the detection of feigned

insanity. Care and patience must be bestowed on the study of each case by itself. Some lay stress upon one point, others upon another; but the case must be taken, as it were, collectively. The possibility of the case being one of real insanity, notwithstanding the absence of some usually expected signs, or the presence of manifestations of a suspicious nature, must never be lost sight of. I have attempted to point out the characters and results of those cases of pretended insanity that have come more immediately under my notice, and of which I have preserved notes. I have never seen one where the refinement of "lucid intervals" was attempted; but I find in the prison records an account of a feigner who continued his game for four months, with brief periods of rational conduct and conversation.

The ingenuity of the prisoner in devising extraordinary lines of conduct is restricted by his limited sphere of action. Impostors are thus often thrown pretty much into the same groove; and hence a probable general course of behaviour may be indicated as likely to be pursued by them. The main points may in brief be thus summed up:—A prisoner has got into trouble, and, perhaps, is frequently punished, being lazy or insolent; he seeks a change of scene and discipline, and he will get it if he can make himself out mad. Some extravagant demonstration is fixed upon, and is carried out either among his fellow-prisoners or in the dead of night. He strips himself naked perhaps, or shouts out with a show of violence or of fright, generally finding some few dismal words to repeat over and over again. If quiet, he lies about in his cell, and mumbles inaudibly, or pretends that his food is poisoned, and rejects it. There is a suspicious and sudden completeness of mental alienation, without previous peculiarity of conduct; questions are unheeded, or stupid answers are given; the expression of the face, and especially of the eye, does not bear out appearances. He rests well at night—at any rate after the first one,—he allows himself to be pulled about, and to be annoyed without grumbling or taking any notice; his language is abusive, and his general conduct slovenly, and perhaps filthy. His bodily health is good. By and by the character of the symptoms changes; from being restless and violent, he settles down and becomes quiet and moping, or the reverse takes place; this is suspicious. He may for a while court the relief afforded by this change, if not detected in it; but he becomes tired of the irksome struggle. Both body and mind

exhibit signs of a desire for relaxation from constraint; with an effort he breaks gently to some subordinate that he is himself again, and is all right before the doctor's next visit.

The means recommended to make a man desist from his imposture are many, and need not be recounted here. Whether moral or physical, they have, in a measure, to be adapted to the particular cases under treatment. Where imposture is evident, a small galvanic battery has wonderful influence, and is safe. Its indiscriminate application would be cruel. It should be used not to detect, but to put a stop to the pretended madness.

Voluntary Patients in Asylums. By STANLEY HAYNES, M.D.
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It has appeared to me highly desirable, if not requisite, that there should be some extension of the present system for the admission of boarders into establishments for the insane, and that the anomalous and confusing condition of the existing laws referring to them, by which each division of our country has its enactments at variance with the others, should be amended in such a manner that all parts of Great Britain and Ireland should be subject to one scheme of legislation on the subject.

I propose to indicate the existing requirements of the lunacy acts respecting boarders, to show the advances already made and the imperfections now experienced, to offer some proofs of an extension of the law being necessary, and to make some suggestions for further legislation concerning the semi-sane we meet with in psychological practice. I believe there is great, if not urgent, room for improvement, though it cannot be denied there are many obstacles to impede a satisfactory settlement of a difficult and delicate topic. Many persons who are not of unsound mind, but who find their mental health is endangered or weakened, might, by an expansion of the present lunacy laws, be received into asylums as voluntary patients or boarders, with strong probability of