

but has a forward tilt ; at its upper end it merges obliquely into the skin ; at the upper and anterior part a small piece of cartilage can be felt corresponding to the antitragus. The tragus itself is smaller than usual. The external auditory meatus is represented by a narrow opening or canal in the nature of a cul-de-sac, which just admits an ordinary probe for a distance of three eighths of an inch. The whole ear is freely moveable with the skin.

The left ear appears well formed, and with it she hears very well ; on the right side she is completely deaf.

The existence of various abnormalities and malformations of the ear in patients with congenital mental defect, and in cases of acquired insanity, has been frequently observed and noted. The present instance of arrested development is of peculiar interest, occurring as it does in a patient with pronounced insane heredity in both paternal and maternal lines, and who has herself, at the early age of twenty-five, become the subject of an attack of insanity.

Occasional Notes.

The Lunacy Bill.

THE Lunacy Bill of the present session has passed the House of Lords, and has now reached the Commons. It is practically the bill as amended last year, but with a varied pension clause, and a new clause for dealing with incipient unconfirmed insanity. The pensions clause in the present bill disappeared in its progress through the House of Lords, through the opposition principally emanating from the County Councils Association. The chief argument used was that these bodies object to be bound by Act of Parliament to give pensions. Another objection was based on the fact that in Yorkshire the county councils had decided not to give pensions, but had arranged to give larger pay ; although the increase cannot be regarded as at all adequate. The clause, however, was so unsatisfactory, providing only for a pension of one sixtieth, and even this practically dependent on the favourable report of the Asylums Committee, that only

gratification can be expressed that it has been withdrawn. Unfortunately the gratuity clause has shared the same fate without any apparent reason.

The early treatment clause in the bill embodies the recommendations made to the Lord Chancellor by the joint committee of the British Medical and the Medico-Psychological Association, reported in the April number of this JOURNAL. It passed unaltered through the House of Lords.

The "urgency order" clause is still retained, and fuller consideration of the probable effect of the reduction of the duration of the order to four days has resulted in a more strenuous objection on the medical side. This will probably manifest itself in the progress of the bill through the House of Commons.

There has been considerable delay already in the progress of the bill through the House of Commons, and it is still doubtful whether it will become an Act in the present session: if blocked it certainly will not do so.

The Magistrate in Lunacy.

It was not difficult to foresee that the Lunacy Act would entail disasters if magistrates were to assume the position of revising medical opinions in regard to mental disorder. That the magistrate might, in rare and difficult cases, require independent skilled opinion is readily conceivable; but that he should override medical certificates, presented in due form and sufficient in detail, by an autocratic use of his own unenlightened judgment is a peril accompanied by no extenuating circumstances.

It is reported that an inquest was held at Exeter on 1st April last, on the body of Susan Mary Herd, who had been found dead in bed in her lodgings four days previously. Her landlord stated that she had been melancholy and depressed, that she had not been outside the house for a year and a half, and that he considered her to have been of unsound mind. He wished to have her ejected because his wife was afraid of her. Dr. MacKeith said that he had certified S. M. Herd of unsound mind after careful examination, and taking into consideration that she had previously been in an asylum. She