

by the addition of a section for sixty female patients at Abbâsiya and five sections containing 200 beds at Khanka. The number resident meanwhile rose to 2,364, so that there was still an excess of 523 patients at the end of the year.

The admissions amounted to 1,068, while 529 patients were discharged uncured.

The extensive additions gave relief for a time, but the accommodation even thus extended is not nearly sufficient for such a high admission-rate.

Several residences were built, for the sub-director at Khanka, for each of two assistant medical officers there, and for each of four assistant medical officers at Abbâsiya. The drainage system at Khanka was extended, new pumps provided, and a large septic tank made.

A site at Alexandria was acquired for the construction of a reception house later on.

Owing to failing health I was absent for half the year. The acute political crisis delayed schemes for further extensions, and the financial slump continued. Until a solution of the crisis was found we had to mark time.

The codification of the various regulations in lunacy was now undertaken with a view to fixing them by *arrêté*, pending the promulgation of a lunacy law.

During the year 1922 the number of patients resident rose to 2,491—an excess of 650 over the number of beds provided. The death-rate fell to 7·6 *per cent.* of the average number resident.

The want of room again necessitated the discharge of a large number of uncured cases.

I was again absent for five and a half months, and I retired from the service in October, 1923.

(*To be continued.*)

(¹) The year henceforward coincides with the financial year from April 1 to March 31.

Clinical Notes and Cases.

Folie à Deux. By WM. McWILLIAM, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Inverness District Mental Hospital.

THE relative rarity of cases of *folie à deux* provides the reason for the publication of these notes, together with a comparative simplicity of the mental mechanisms on the side of the passive agent.

A husband and wife, æt. respectively 37 and 33, were admitted to the Inverness District Mental Hospital on August 1, 1922. They had been married in January, 1919, and there were no children of the union. During the war the husband had

seen service in the Navy, and having been demobilized with the usual gratuity, had settled in Inverness district. The gratuity had been sunk in small business adventures, all of which had been total failures. His last attempt at settlement had been as a market-gardener, but this, too, had failed to prosper, involving much financial worry, complicated by a disagreement with a neighbouring farmer over a lease of some ground.

Family histories : Husband.—Father and mother, no recorded mental disorder, but sister of mother insane, and of patient's brothers, one committed suicide by drowning, and a second was a patient in this hospital in 1908.

Wife.—History negative for the psychoses, but it transpired that a brother had suffered from shell-shock.

The events leading up to the admission of the patients are summarized in the following :

1. A local newspaper reported : " On Monday morning it was discovered that the house occupied by a market-gardener and his wife had been totally destroyed by fire. . . . It was also alleged that the man recklessly discharged firearms to the alarm of the people in the neighbourhood."

2. Police report : " They said people in the district were practising witchcraft upon them ; that a man employed by Mr. W—, farmer, had wafted a mysterious influence from the surface of a mill dam, which woke them both in the night, feeling that they were chloroformed, also that their horse had taken sick and their calves died as the result of witchcraft, and that the neighbours' children had placed twigs or sticks crossed here and there on his property ; also M— (the male patient) said he had seen an old woman circling on the roadway and waving her arms, all of which, he said, was proof of the practice of witchcraft. M— said he was not afraid of anyone, and I consider it would be dangerous for any stranger to wander on his property while he suffers from these beliefs. . . . Mrs. M— also said a neighbouring woman had tried ' to put the evil eye on her.' "

3. Police report : " I requested the male accused to accompany me to this office. He consented on condition his wife came too. Both then came to the office, and after considerable difficulty, as both were insanely suspicious of a ' trap ' being set for them, I got the male accused alone in the Inspector's room. . . . Male and female accused, being obsessed with the idea that if they were separated, a magician would influence the wife, I saw it would be necessary to enforce the warrant in the case of the female accused also."

Showing such evident signs of mental disorder, on August 1, 1922, the husband and wife were admitted together, and the following are the facts from their medical certificates :

Husband.—Very excited and voluble ; complains of enemies having tried to burn down his house, and of having burned it down. Has delusions that people are practising witchcraft on him with birds.

Wife.—Very excited ; states that people are practising witchcraft and magic against her ; that evil birds are hovering round the chimney and sending evil stanches into the house.

On admission the husband was excited and garrulous, and bore an air of injustice. He was interested and sociable and well oriented for all dimensions. Memory showed no signs of defect. The wife, on her part, gave an impression of emotional instability, alternately weeping and laughing in an " hysterical " fashion. She, too, was well oriented, but when questioned as to witchcraft and magic, denied the reality of what had been her delusions, whereas the husband remained silent and uncommunicative.

The cases progressed thus :

August 2, 1922 : Husband : Reticent and guarded in his conversation ; affective state one of mild exaltation.

Wife : Mildly depressed and uncommunicative.

August 3.—H.: Very excited. Resists examination of his pupillary reflexes; apparently believes he is being hypnotized; appears to be praying at times, and when asked what is wrong with him, states he requires help from God against his persecutors. He is being done injury to by a sort of Black Hand gang, headed by a neighbouring farmer. "Is the Doctor free from the influence of the gang?" he asks. He totally lacks insight.

W.: Very unstable emotionally; tells a very pathetic story of a fight against adverse circumstances; at times weeps, and at times smiles.

August 4.—H.: People began to work against him by the aid of mesmerism; wants the British Legion and Earl Haig to take his case up; persists he is well mentally.

W.: Wrote sister saying that "these people would stop at nothing to gain our bit of land."

August 7.—W.: Has been sleeping better during the past few days, though still somewhat unstable emotionally.

August 22.—W.: Improvement has been maintained, and she has now fair insight.

September 15.—H.: Working and sociable, though there is little doubt but that his persecutory ideas persist. He states he has no desire for revenge, and intends to forget the past.

W.: Appears to be in her normal mental state.

On October 5, 1922, both patients were discharged together to the care of their friends. The wife had fully recovered, and possessed good insight, while the husband had, for the time being, his delusional ideas under control, and was again in touch with reality. He had no insight into his illness.

Diagnosis.—Husband: Paranoia in the second stage. Wife: Hysteria.

The husband and wife met at frequent intervals, but this fact did not seem to prejudice the prognosis in the individual cases.

Before her marriage the female patient had been for some years a nurse in a southern mental hospital, but this proved no defence, rather seeming to help her to accept the suggestions of her husband in taking the line of least resistance, and flying from reality. The husband was much the stronger personality.

The police report that the male and female accused were obsessed with the idea that if they were separated a "magician" would influence the wife is also interesting, as was a letter written by the husband on August 4. He had only consented to go to the police office on condition that his wife went too. He was still in the stage that he required help in the formation of his delusional scheme, and that help was obtained by forcing his ideas on his suggestible wife. Her acceptance of them sufficiently bolstered up his own ego-complex. After admission and the consequent separation, the scheme suffered a check—the more ancient and primitive witchcraft ideas were substituted by more modern ones connected with hypnotism. His letter of August 4 stated: "I know the whole thing now, and we were subjected to the influence of hypnotism—not witchcraft, as we imagined. Everything is perfectly clear to me now." It proved only a temporary check to the progress his wife was already making,

for his sudden change of outlook could not but affect her attitude in her state of mental flux. "I imagined" was also to her a happy phrase.

A new environment in hospital, a little explanation and persuasion, and the promise of a new beginning in her home country among friends provided the wife with the solution of her conflict. The husband, with the same opportunities of making good, could but forego revenge and attempt a further repression.

This example of *folie à deux* serves to emphasize how imaginary is our borderline between the psychoses and the psycho-neuroses.

I have to thank Dr. T. C. Mackenzie for permission to publish the notes of these cases.

Medico-Legal Notes.

HARNETT *v.* BOND AND ADAM.

An action seriously affecting the interests of the medical profession has been brought by Mr. William Smart Harnett, a farmer, of Springfield, Newington, near Sittingbourne, Kent, against Dr. Charles Hubert Bond, a Commissioner in Lunacy, and Dr. George Henry Adam, the manager of a house for the reception of lunatics at Malling Place, West Malling, Kent, and the hearing, including the argument on the jury's findings and the delivery of the judgment, before Mr. Justice Lush, in the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, lasted from February 7 to 29—seventeen days in all. The action was for damages for alleged conspiracy, assault, and false imprisonment, and the jury on the fifteenth day returned a verdict in the plaintiff's favour, awarding a sum of £25,000 as damages. In the preparation of the following account we have made much use of the reports published in the *Times*.

Case for the Plaintiff.

The plaintiff's case was that on November 10th, 1912, he was received as a private patient at Malling Place on a reception order made by a justice of the peace on certificates signed by Dr. Henry Fisher, of Sittingbourne—against whom an action is pending for having so signed—and the late Dr. Penfold, of Sittingbourne. He was detained there until December 12, 1912, when Dr. Adam, with the consent of two visiting justices, permitted him to be absent on probation for twenty-eight days. On December 14, 1912, the plaintiff alleged that while in a room at the offices of the Commissioners in Lunacy, Victoria Street, Westminster, the defendants conspired to