

to the *rationale* of these phenomena to divert our attention from their great interest quite apart from metalloscopy. M. Charcot has brought under the notice of the profession the clinical facts of hystero-epilepsy, hemianæsthesia, and allied phenomena, in a way which no one else has done, and his good work will remain, whatever becomes of metalloscopy. Further, the courageous manner in which he is now employing hypnotism at the Salpêtrière can hardly fail not only to confirm, as it has done already, the results arrived at by Mr. Braid, but greatly to extend them.

There are those who think that because these lines of enquiry offer a tempting field for imposture they should not be pursued, and who, as regards hysteria, adopt for their text "Touch not pitch, lest thou be defiled thereby." There are others who believe it is more essential here than anywhere else to apply methodical scientific research and legitimate medical enquiry. To the latter class belongs, fortunately for medical science, the distinguished physician of the Salpêtrière, M. Charcot.

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#### CLINICAL NOTES AND CASES.

##### CASE I.

*Insanity in a Boy following Injury to the Head.* By G. H. SAVAGE, M.D., Lond.\*

Edward, J., schoolboy, 14 years. Mother insane thrice after delivery, including the birth of this boy.

The boy had been healthy and bright, though small. He had had no severe illnesses. Four months before admission he received a severe blow on his head. He was only insensible for a very short time. Two days after the injury he became dull and moody, then slowly changed and became noisy, boisterous, and violent, throwing things about in a wild way. He kicked and bit those about him. This attack lasted nearly a month, and then he became dull again, and for a few days his friends thought he was getting well, when again he became maniacal. During the four months before admission he had three or four distinct attacks of mania with intervals of a few days of quiet. In the attack preceding admission he was much more violent, and could not be managed at home. He chattered incessantly, talking nonsense; he would not dress himself, tore up his clothes, struck his mother, and tried to escape from the house in a state of nudity. He was dirty in his habits, refused food, and was sleepless.

\* Read at Quarterly Meeting. See Notes and News.

On admission he was thin and delicate-looking, noisy, restless, and destructive. He complained of pain in his head, over the region of the blow.

Ten days after admission he became more quiet and tidy, amused himself with cricket and reading.

From this time he rapidly improved, and was discharged within two months of his entrance to the Hospital, apparently as well as ever, with no mental loss of any kind.

In this case we have a strong inherited taint, and a patient who will probably break down again from other causes. But the insanity following so soon after the blow, I think one is justified in considering it the cause of this attack. The form of insanity following a blow may be of almost any kind, and it seems to depend to a great extent on whether it is the real cause or only the exciting cause, as in this instance. In the former the prospect of recovery is not nearly so good as in the latter.

This case, again, is of interest from the recovery occurring so rapidly in a young case.

One, of course, looks upon all attacks of insanity in very young persons as unfavourable, and the number of cases of weak-mindedness produced by injury to the head in early life is well known. Taking the whole circumstances, I think the case worthy of record.

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CASE II.

*Insanity following Marriage.*

Frederick H., married, 26, a constable. Family history very good; both parents living, and all his brothers and sisters healthy. He had been very sober, industrious, and well-behaved. He is a very powerfully-built man, of six feet in height. He had no shocks, injuries to the head, or cause for anxiety. He had been married five weeks.

Two days before admission he became restless and suspicious at night. He heard voices, and thought they doubted if he were married, and took his marriage certificate to the police-station to show to people.

He became violent, fancied thieves were in the house, and rushed up and down stairs after them, and attempted to jump out of window. He accused his wife and his brother of stealing and receiving stolen property.

He stripped himself naked. He said himself he could not sleep in consequence of the noise made by electric batteries.

On admission he was physically weak, unsteady in his gait, had some hesitation in his speech; widely dilated pupils, a soft, sweating skin, and compressible pulse. He was restless and suspicious, full of