

Dr. F. GRAHAM CROOKSHANK contributed "Some Notes on the Study of Insanity." See page 49.

Dr. G. WATERS GREENE read a paper entitled "Prognosis in Dementia Paralytica."

At the Council Meeting, which was held at 2 p.m., the following members were present:—Drs. Aveline, Beach, Bond, Bower, Chambers, Craig, Graham, Hitchcock, Robert Jones, Legge, MacBryan, Macdonald, Newington, Pierce, Rayner, Percy Smith, Steen, Turnbull, Turner, White, Wood, Yellowlees.

In the evening the members dined together at the Café Monico.

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE.

The following are the members of the Classification Committee:—Drs. Percy Smith (Chairman), Goodall, Robert Jones, Macpherson, Mercier, Conolly Norman, Savage, and Outterson Wood.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

The Autumn Meeting of the South-Eastern Division was held by the courtesy of Dr. R. Langdon-Down, at Normansfield, Hampton Wick, on Wednesday, October 18th, 1905.

Among those present were Drs. T. Outterson Wood (President), R. Percy Smith, Ernest W. White, G. E. Shuttleworth, H. Stilwell, H. E. Haynes, William Rawes, A. Rotherham, S. C. Elgee, G. N. O. Slater, David Hunter, W. G. Fee, F. C. Gayton, F. H. Edwards, C. H. Fennell, J. Wigmore Higginson, F. S. Crookshank, H. Gardiner Hill, A. N. Boycott, J. R. Hill, Fred Watson, M. T. Archdall, N. Navarra, H. W. B. Stoddart, R. J. Stilwell, W. H. Bailey, A. S. Newington, and R. H. Steen (Hon. Sec.).

The house and grounds were inspected, and subsequently Dr. Langdon-Down entertained the members to luncheon.

The meeting of the Divisional Committee was held at 2.15 p.m., Drs. Rawes, Boycott, Hunter, Slater, Stilwell, and Steen being present.

The General Meeting of the Division was then held, Dr. T. Outterson Wood (President) in the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having appeared in the JOURNAL were taken as read and confirmed.

The following gentleman was elected as an ordinary member of the Association:—J. Francis Dixon, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., B.A.(Dub.), L.M.(Rot.), Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Three Counties Asylum. Proposed by Drs. De Lisle, Hyslop, and Stoddart.

The invitation from Dr. A. N. Boycott to hold the Spring Meeting of the Division at the Herts County Asylum, Hill End, St. Albans, on April 25th, 1906, was unanimously accepted with much pleasure.

The PRESIDENT stated that he wished to draw the attention of each member of the Division to the importance of carefully considering the proposed amalgamation of the Association with other medical societies in London. It was a matter of the greatest importance, and it behoved each member to weigh the subject in all its bearings.

Dr. ERNEST W. WHITE who followed stated that he fully endorsed the remarks which had fallen from the President, and moved that the Secretary of the Division should note the matter and place on the Agenda of the Spring Meeting of the Division the following subject for debate:—"To consider what steps should be taken by this Division in view of the suggested amalgamation of the London Medical Societies into one Association to be termed the 'Royal Academy of Medicine.'" This was carried unanimously.

Dr. LANGDON-DOWN read a paper on "Some Observations on the Mongolian Type of Imbecility."

He presented a series of fourteen examples for inspection, including nine adults, and it was more particularly to the adult conditions of this type that he drew attention. Dr. Shuttleworth and Dr. Ireland were cited to show that the majority of these cases die before reaching adult life, and that they generally succumb to tubercular disease.

The examples shown ranged from 24 to 56 years of age, the average age being 35 for the nine cases; the lady aged 56 was probably a nearly unique instance in this respect.

It was pointed out that they were not to be confused with sporadic cretins, from which they were easily distinguished, and that they do not respond to thyroid feeding.

The mental capacity varies very greatly in different cases from mere feebleness of mind to idiocy of a low grade.

The eight adult male patients ranged from 24 to 46, and averaged 32 years. The extremes of height were 4 ft. 11 in. and 5 ft. 4½ in., the average being 5 ft. 0½ in., this being about seven inches below the normal average height.

The average weight of a normal male of this height is below 9 stone, whereas the average weight of these cases is above 9 stone, showing that they are rather heavy for their height, and this is accounted for by the tendency to lay on fat.

The circumference of head varied from 20 in. to 21½, the average being 20½, as compared with 22½ in. for the normal adult male, thus showing a deficiency of nearly two inches.

The shape of the head was shown by diagrams to be rounded, the antero-posterior diameter being shorter in comparison with the transverse than in the normal, and in very few cases were there bosses or eminences on the skull.

It is thus found that in adult life the skull does not exceed in size that of an average boy of 12 years, and the growth in circumference after 12 years of age is much less than normal.

With regard to causation other neurotic cases in the family were recorded in eight out of the fourteen cases; in five the family history was claimed to be free from any such taint.

Four are the youngest children of the family, two were prematurely born. Ill-health and anxiety in the mother and difficult labour are also noted.

The proportion of these cases to the other imbeciles in the establishment is 9·7 per cent.

This figure very closely corresponds with the statistics of the late Dr. Langdon-Down, based mainly upon his experience at Earlswood, which showed that this type accounted for 10 per cent. of all his cases. This proportion is greater than has been noted by other observers, thus Dr. Shuttleworth says this condition obtains in 5 per cent. of mentally defective children. Dr. Ireland gives the proportion as about 3 or 4 per cent. to the other idiots, while Dr. Martin Barr, of Elwyn Pa, finds it in only ·09 per cent. of all cases of idiocy.

It is possible that this discrepancy may be in parts accounted for by differences in the composition and character of the constituency on which the percentages are reckoned; the American institutions, for instance, receiving a larger proportion of those cases we now call feeble-minded than has been usual in this country.

Continental observers recognise the existence of cases of this type, but consider them to be of much less frequent occurrence than they would appear to be here.

The mortality among these patients appears, at all events in the earlier years of life, to be somewhat greater than among imbeciles of other types; in the majority of cases death is due to pulmonary affections.

The principal peculiarities characteristic of this group were referred to and demonstrated in the cases shown, particularly in reference to the general build, the condition of the skin and its appendages, the tongue, the shape of the palate, defects in connection with the eyes, ears, and the nervous system, and the striking mental and moral characters were described.

Taken altogether, this series of correlated characters involving every part of the body, and with it the disposition and habits, formed a significant clinical picture.

The question arises as to the cause and explanation of this condition. In the paper in the *London Hospital Reports*, 1866, which first described this type, and gave it the name by which it is generally known, the suggestion apparently was that this was an example of "retrogression, or, at all events, of departure from one type, and the assumption of the characteristics of another," "the ethnic features of the group being the result of degeneration," in short of what biologists call "reversion to type."

It would appear, however, that the characters which at first sight strikingly suggest Mongolian features and build are accidental and superficial, being con-

stantly associated, as they are, with other features which are in no way characteristic of that race, and if this is a case of reversion it must be reversion to a type even further back than the Mongol stock, from which some ethnologists believe all the various races of men have sprung.

On the other hand, it may be an instance of "variation," though there seems to be a difficulty in applying such a term to a condition comprising so many widely different correlated peculiarities and recurring with such frequency. It appears necessary then to fall back upon the view that arrest of development takes place very early in its progress, and affects practically all parts of the organism, the process in this respect differing from the incomplete development which produces spina bifida, cleft palate, etc., which latter are defects not specially frequent in these or other imbeciles.

This arrest must be due either to some inborn latent tendency, such as might be attributable to a neurotic heredity, or to some defects of environment occurring in early intra-uterine life with considerable frequency, or to both these factors combined. This explanation seems, so far as it goes, to be supported by the histories of the cases.

However this may be, these cases form an important homogeneous group, of which it may be claimed, with some confidence, that in any inquiry we are at least comparing like with like; a group therefore more likely than any other to throw light on the causes of idiocy, and more likely to suggest measures of precaution, and even to become amenable to treatment, should any constant defect in the external conditions come to light.

The PRESIDENT stated that the meeting was deeply indebted to Dr. Langdon-Down, not only for his excellent paper, but for the opportunity of seeing a class of case which was comparatively rare. He had only seen cases in the earlier years of life, as in the later stages they were generally admitted into some institution.

Dr. SHUTTLEWORTH alluded to the fact that it was most interesting that the son of Dr. Langdon-Down, who first gave the name to this class of case, should be there that day giving so valuable a demonstration on the subject, and he felt proud that he had been called upon by the President to discuss the very excellent paper they had heard.

There were many points of interest in the consideration of the ætiology of these cases. Personally he had ventured to term them "unfinished children," bearing permanently the imprint of a phase of foetal life. This was a rough and ready sort of explanation, and he did not know if it would stand scientific examination.

Dr. Langdon-Down had remarked on the processes of gestation having some connection with the causation of these cases. He himself had frequently seen such children as the last of a large family (e. g. the youngest of fifteen). He had noticed also the frequency with which these patients had a tubercular heredity. His own figures gave a tubercular family history of 60 *per cent.*, and he attached considerable importance to this fact.

Debility (however caused) of the mother during the pregnancy seemed a frequent factor. He described a recent case he had seen in which the parents were Dutch. The mother had a contracted pelvis, and with the idea that the child born should be as small as possible, she was placed during the last five months of pregnancy on a very restricted and meagre diet, with the result that the child (born at full time) was a Mongolian imbecile. The question as to whether parental syphilis played any part in causation was one worth considering, and Dr. S. A. Sutherland had noticed this factor in many cases, though personally he had recognised it but in very few.

Dr. Shuttleworth handed round some photographs of Mongolian idiots showing many interesting points, notably the deformity of the feet, the toes being of the same length, and in one case the great toe was separated from the other toes by a deep fissure.

Dr. E. W. WHITE stated that he had had the good fortune of taking his King's College class for many years to the Darent Asylum, where the patients had been excellently classified by Drs. Fletcher Beach, Beresford, and Fennell. On following up these cases of Mongolian idiocy, and on information supplied by these gentlemen he had been struck by the fact that many of them died from tuberculous and other diseases of the lungs. He had thought the matter out, and having noted the extreme dryness of the skin, which is a marked characteristic of these

cases, he had wondered if that fact had any connection with the prevalence of lung disease in this class of patient. The lungs had to compensate for the diminished activity of the integument, and the increased stress thus thrown upon them might be a factor of importance in this matter. Dr. Fennell was present, and he hoped that he would give the benefit of his views.

Dr. FENNELL said he had frequently noticed that many of these cases suffered from congenital heart disease. As regards the comparative frequency of these cases it seemed to be a fact that more cases were met with in the upper classes of society than in the lower. In Darenth Asylum the proportion was 1 in 20, or 5 *per cent.* among 2000 patients.

Dr. LANGDON-DOWN replied.

The PRESIDENT regretted that time did not permit Dr. W. H. B. Stoddart to read his paper on "Instincts—a Psycho-physical Study in Evolution and Dissolution."

A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Dr. Langdon-Down for so hospitably receiving the Division.

The members, to the number of fourteen, dined together afterwards at the Café Monico.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

The Autumn Meeting of the Northern and Midland Division was held, by the kindness of Dr. Ewan, at the Kesteven County Asylum on Thursday, October 12th, 1905. Present:—Drs. Ewan (in the chair), Macdowall, Archdale, Hitchcock, T. W. Gilmour, Macleod, Pierce, Torney, Stewart, Wilson.

Mr. Edward Swan Simpson, M.B., C.M.Edin., Assistant Medical Officer at the East Riding Asylum, Beverley, was unanimously elected a member of the Association.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Dr. Wilson read a paper on "Masturbation as a Factor in Mental Disease," which was followed by a good discussion, in which Drs. Macleod, Stewart, Macdowall, Gilmour, Hitchcock, Torney, and Ewan took part, and Dr. Wilson replied.

Dr. Gilmour read a paper on "The Mental Symptoms of Pneumonia in Alcoholic Patients," and in the discussion which followed Drs. Ewan, Macleod, and Pierce took part.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Ewan for his hospitality.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The Autumn Meeting of the South-western Division was held at University College, Bristol, on Friday afternoon, October 27th, 1905, the members previously being kindly entertained to lunch by Dr. Bullen.

There were present: Drs. Aldridge, Bullen, Wilson Eager, Gibb, Laval, MacBryan, W. F. Macdonald, Marnan, Morrison, Morton, Rorie, Soutar, Stewart, Wigan, and the Hon. Sec.

Dr. Bullen was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the Spring Meeting were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

William F. Macdonald, M.B., Ch.B., and George A. Davidson, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., Assistant Medical Officers, Somerset and Bath Asylum, Cotford (proposed by Drs. Aveline, Macdonald, and Rorie), were elected ordinary members of the Association.

THE NEXT MEETING.

An invitation from Dr. Weatherly to hold the meeting on April 27th, 1906, at the Winsley Sanatorium, near Bath, was cordially accepted.