Medical Journal. He presented his conclusions relative to the prevention of insanity in a manner which should prove of definite value, for he impressed upon the medical profession the duty of advising against the marriages of persons strongly predisposed to insanity, and indicated the legal provisions which are necessary to limit the action of alcohol in the production of insanity and of syphilis in general paralysis. It is, indeed, of little avail to emphasise the apparent inefficacy of medicine in the cure of insanity while the captious critics refrain from attacking the evil at its source. Dr. Percy Smith's address cannot be too widely published, for until the country recognises that insane heredity, alcoholism, and syphilis are prime factors in the evolution of mental disorders, and until it acts upon that conviction, we cannot expect a marked alleviation of the burden which is so irksome to bear.

We need not refer to the other papers, important as some of them are, for their aim and scope are indicated in Dr. Whitwell's *résumé*, and they will be found in detail in the pages of the *British Medical Journal.*

We note that the members present adopted a resolution recommending that the section should in future be called the *Section of Psychiatry*, and suppose that the intention is to make *psychology* apply to normal conditions and *psychiatry* to abnormal. There is a decided convenience in being able in a word to discriminate between the two, and we are already familiar with the term *psychiatry*, as it is used on the Continent, although it has not met with entire approval among us. We want more distinctive terms, just as we require a convenient self-contained word to express that morbid condition characterised by fixed and limited delusions of a persistent type. *Paranoia* is an unfortunate word, *Psychiatry* may be normal or abnormal—there is nothing in either to denote the limitations which we desire to convey. Here, then, are two more questions for Notes and Queries.

Education and Psychology.

The Master of Downing College, Cambridge, Dr. Alexander Hill, has recently delivered two lectures on *Brain Tissue as the Apparatus of Thought.* These lectures, before the distinguished

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audience of the Royal Institution, contained much interesting matter, skilfully arranged and characterised by originality of view. What is of interest to our readers, however, is not so much the contents of the lectures, but their significance.

That part of the English educational system which is represented by those archaic establishments, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, has hitherto so slightly recognised the existence of psychology as an aid to teaching, and of the brain as the fundamental fact of mental development, that the phenomenon just reported is at once astonishing and of good omen. That a Master of a College in Cambridge should appear before the public as a teacher competent to direct pedagogues in accordance with scientific methods opens vistas of hope for the expansion of our educational system in consonance with the dictates of modern psychology. The deadly upas of mediæval culture has too long spread its baleful influence over those educational establishments; but with Dr. Hill at Cambridge, and Dr. Burdon Sanderson at Oxford, the pure light of science is already proving a revivifying antidote to the bacteria of scholasticism.

Neurologists and Alienists.

Specialism in medicine, as in other departments of knowledge, has its special dangers in contracting the mental vision; but it has undoubtedly done much for scientific progress. Medical specialism, in addition to scientific advantages, offers a certain convenience to the public in enabling them to obtain the advice of those who have intimate knowledge of particular forms of disease, and who are therefore presumably best qualified to treat them.

Medical specialists, as a rule, abide by their specialism, and promptly relegate to other consultants any case which does not appear appropriate to their limitations. For instance, we should hardly expect that a patient who had strayed into the rooms of a neurologist would be retained for an operation to relieve him of a cataract.

It is, indeed, of frequent occurrence that one specialist in the course of his medical duties finds it necessary to have further

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