her system. He had her watched, and within three days she developed small-pox.

Dr. RAYNER asked whether, in the case mentioned by Dr. Williams, or in the others, there was any hereditary predisposition to insanity? It was answered that no information had been got upon that point.

The CHAIRMAN said that several such cases had occurred within his own experience. There was one quite recently, last year, in which there were symptoms of mental disturbance, the patient continually getting out of bed, and giving much trouble; but something about it induced him to put it down as a case of fever, instead of ordinary mania; and the result showed that he was correct. The medical man who had signed the certificate, afterwards told him that he also was in doubt about it at the time, but that he signed it with the less hesitation, because in the workhouse infirmary there was no room for this patient in the fever ward. The patient was carefully examined every day, without detecting any rash on the body, but there were the abdominal symptoms of typhoid fever. A few years ago there was a case of simple pyæmia, which seemed to be of spontaneous or idiopathic origin, accompanied with symptoms of insanity. It resulted in death, and the post-mortem examination showed pus in every organ, including the heart. In the workhouses in Lancashire, where lunatic patients were commonly kept too long before sending them to an asylum, there would more likely be time to find out any case which was merely caused by a fever.

STRUCTURE OF PALATE IN IDIOCY OR IMBECILITY.

Dr. SHAW read a minute account of his observations and measurements of the height and width of the palate, in relation to the dimensions of the skull, in a large number of cases of congenital idiocy or imbecility. He exhibited a little apparatus contrived for the purpose of taking such measurements, and discussed the subject in all its details, combating the notion, set forth in many books, that a highly arched palate is a characteristic feature of the conformation usually found to accompany a deficient capacity of brain. (See Pt. I., "Original Articles.")

The CHAIRMAN thought it would be interesting to know what other gentlemen might have observed with reference to the matter so ably investigated by Dr. Shaw. If anyone had examined, for instance, the form of palate which occurred in cases of goitre or cretinism, a report upon it would be of service.

Dr. LANGDON DOWN said it was a subject to him of particular interest. He had long been accustomed to look into the mouths of idiots or imbeciles for that palatal structure which he had found, in a great number of cases, to be co-existent with mental deficiency. In a paper which he published twelve or fourteen years ago the measurements were given of two hundred imbecile and idiot patients, compared with those of two hundred other persons. At that time the opinion which Dr. Shaw now rejected was not at all controverted, and it was confirmed in a paper by Dr. Granville, of Paris, from the observations he had made; but there was another person besides Dr. Shaw, who had since controverted it. He had had a visit from a leading American dentist, who told him that he had read a paper before a society at New York, contending even that a narrow high-arched palate was a sign of genius and high intellect, as it was often found in very clever men. He took that American gentleman to see about ninety patients, whom he examined one after another; and the result was quite to convince him that the idiots of England, at any rate, had such palates as he described. Dr. Shaw was a very careful observer, but there were two likely causes of fallacious observation in these instances. In accidental cases of idiocy, such as were caused by meningitis, or by some casualty of early life, the high-arched narrow palate would not be met with; the observations should rather be confined to the cases of congenital idiocy. Another circum-

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stance which might lead to mistaken conclusions was that there were two distinct types of facial conformation among idiots, one class having a broad palate, but the majority had the narrow, high-arched palate.

Dr. HARRINGTON TUKE said this question was brought before him in the case of Mr. Windham, one of the reasons assigned for that gentleman's insanity being that he had an excessively arched palate. He then made some inquiries upon the subject, and he thought there could be no doubt that a large palate, in combination with other peculiarities of structure—in the ears and teeth, for example—was a symptom to be taken into account, though it might not be important taken alone. A gentleman he knew, who died not long ago, had an idea that idiocy in children was produced by the habit of sucking the thumb, and some one might fancy that this habit was associated with a peculiar form of the palate; but there was not much reliance to be placed on such suppositions.

Dr. SHAW replied, acknowledging the friendly tone of the criticisms his paper had received. What he had intended to affirm was this, that persons were to be found with a badly formed palate, who had all their mental faculties in a perfectly sound condition; while there were, on the other hand, microcephalic idiots, whose palate would be found, instead of eight-twelfths or nine-twelfths of an inch, not more than four-twelfths of an inch high. The upper part of the cranium might be perfectly formed, and there would be no defect of brain, notwithstanding the existence of a high-arched palate. The palate bones of an idiot from birth might be of that formation which had been regarded as belonging to persons of ordinary mental capacity. His conclusion, therefore, was that there was no necessary connection between the palatal structure and the amount of mental power.

THE HISTORY OF BETHLEM HOSPITAL.

Dr. HACK TUKE read an interesting antiquarian and topographical account of the successive foundations of Bethlem, from the year 1247, when the Priory of St. Mary of Bethlehem, in Bishopsgate, was founded by Alderman Simon Fitz-Mary, on through its several transformations and removals, to the present institution, in which the Medico-Psychological Association was that evening assembled. With the aid of maps, old prints, and drawings, furnished by Mr. G. H. Haydon, of Bethlem Hospital, he gave a clear explanation of the precise localities, and in some instances was enabled to show the plan and aspect of the ancient buildings. (See Pt. I., "Original Articles.")

Dr. WILLIAMS moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Tuke, and in so doing took occasion to remark that it had often been asked, why should not Bethlem Hospital be removed into the country? He wished it to be generally known and remembered, that Bethlem Hospital actually had an institution in the country, the establishment for convalescents, situated in one of the most delightful parts of Surrey, which gave accommodation to forty patients. That establishment would vie with any similar institutions in England for healthiness and agreeable surroundings. He finished by expressing regret that there was not time for the reading of a paper which Dr. Beach had prepared, but which he hoped would find publication elsewhere.

The CHAIRMAN then declared the proceedings of the meeting at an end; but a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the Resident Physician of Bethlem for the use of the room by the Medico-Psychological Association, and for the hospitality towards its members that evening assembled.

The following Microscopic Specimens were exhibited at the meeting by Dr. Savage:—

Normal brain, various convolutions.
" cords, human and of lower animals.
Cerebellum prepared by Dr. Sankey's method.

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