showing diagrammatic outlines of the convolutions of the brain for ready use at post-mortem examinations. We strongly commend them; no asylum ought to be without them, that is to say if the medical superintendent has any interest in pathology.

THE LINCOLN MURDER.—REGINA v. BARKER.

Barker was the illegitimate son of a domestic servant. The father was a hard drinker, and lived a wild life, and is described as being easily roused to anger, and brooding over any trouble he had. He had been drinking particularly hard previous to Barker's birth. A sister of the father had a delusion that poison was put into her food, and that people were trying to annoy her. She consequently barricaded her house, and abused imaginary people from the window. The prisoner's mother accused the woman who attended to her of putting poison in her tea, was eccentric, and would chase children who passed her house. She was removed to the workhouse as unmanageable. She had a sister and brother who were peculiar, the latter being known in his village as "crazy Billy."

Such was poor Barker's unfortunate family history. There was a predisposing cause of insanity—heredity—in full measure.

Then comes an exciting cause—the death of his wife. His fellow-workers described him as a sober man, depressed latterly, peculiar, and frequently saying that he wished he was dead and in paradise. Several of his mates thought he would commit suicide.

Suspicions developed, and centred on a lodger—Creasey, a schoolmaster—who had been excessively kind to him at the time of Mrs. Barker's death. He accused him of improper relations with a niece who had come to live with him after Mrs. Barker's death. No evidence was adduced, so far as we are aware, that established this allegation. Barker determines that his niece must leave. He asks Creasey to see her off and pay her fare, which he would refund. Creasey after this writes a note to him, to say he is not returning to his quarters. Barker meeting Creasey later on attempts to strike him. A temporary reconciliation follows. However, Creasey does not lodge any longer at Barker's, but at a Mrs. Wilkinson's, next door. They rarely see one another after this. Barker complains that his friends who usually came to see him to sympathize with him on his wife's death call less frequently. This he attributes to the "clandestine" actions of Creasey. In July, 1891, he bought a revolver, and about the same time wrote to Creasey the following letter:—

"Lincoln, Friday.

"To Mr. Creasey,—I am the subject of all the slang and impudence from your gang at Grimsby, I have no doubt from your encouragement. Be careful, my boy, you have got a queer man to deal with. I am only cautioning you. Be careful. I have no more to say now. You was always treated right until you misbehaved yourself.

"BARKER."

Creasey's reply is too long to quote, but is a remonstrance and expostulation highly creditable to his heart.

Subsequently Barker wrote:—

"To Creasey,—I care not what your position and influence may being claim for you to shield you (*sic*). I know you have been a bad, subtle, clandestine, and collusive hunks, and if position will hide you, the right hand of justice will overtake you.

"BARKER."

One would say that this is a typical letter of a man who is labouring under persecution-mania.

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There is nothing important heard of Barker until November, 1892, when there is a paper written by him leaving all he has to a friend. He says at this time he felt life was not worth living, and that he was annoyed by singing and the playing of a tin whistle by the people in the next house where Creasey lived, and that it was done to annoy him, and that he had to go out to escape the noise, and on one occasion he complained about it. After Creasey left, Barker lived alone almost the whole time; he says he never suffered in health at any time except with indigestion. But he "suffered in spirit," and no one "walking a level path in life could understand his feelings." The loss of his wife and the "clandestine conduct of Creasey was the burden of his daily life."

In the early part of May, 1893, he began to abuse his neighbour Mrs. Wilkinson, and her lodger Creasey, accused them of immoral conduct, and used threats towards him. On the 3rd May his conduct towards them was such that they consulted a solicitor, and two summonses were taken out by Creasey to have him bound over to keep the peace.

These summonses were served on Barker on the evening of May 3rd. He called and saw Mrs. Wilkinson, said it was a party matter, and asked if it could not be made up. She declined to make it up, and he did not see Creasey.

Barker seems to have sat up and wandered about his house all that night, and on one occasion tried to get into the house of Mrs. Wilkinson. It was stated he had been drinking sherry and rum. Early next morning he talked to Mrs. Wilkinson over the fence, and as she still refused to allow, and tried to prevent him seeing Creasey by fastening the door, he shot at her, walked into the house to Creasey's room, and when he opened the door shot Creasey. He then went back to his own house, intending to shoot himself, but was arrested, and when charged with the murder said, "I know that's justice."

The following notes were found, and had been written during the night:—

"Mr. Booth, please make me a coffin just like my dear wife's. Law is master of me, but justice I have. They are dishonest, but they will suffer.

"The clock on the room mantel shelf, writing desk in cupboard, my wife's watch and couch rug, I wish Mr. Hallam, of 17, Ash Grove, Bradford, to have them.—BARKER. And anything else he would like. The hymn book on table for Mrs. Morris, widow of relieving officer.

"I am not answerable for what I have done, but I have done justice. He is a dirty, subtle, crafty fellow. He has acted in an insidious manner because I accused him of immoral actions in my house. He has acted most dirty and 'vindicative,' and has caused me great annoyance, purposely. To set an example I die to show that his academical position cannot screen him from justice. He might, by his position, command an influence, but I have suffered in spirit from his dirty knavery. I will leave the rest for the world. I know I am not justified, but I have done it. I defy hell for speaking ill of me. If he or any other young man had conducted themselves as well as I this would not have happened. I accuse him of nothing before the girl came, but I spoke to him of sitting up at night and co-habitation. It roused his inbred revenge. A warning all round."

And the following had been put under the door of Mrs. Mitchell during the previous evening:—

"47, Danesgate.

"Dear Mrs. Mitchell,—Come to my house early and take the things; do the best you can. I owe nothing except gas; it has not been taken. It will only amount to 10s. I have nothing against you. You should have come to see me; but I forgive you.

"BARKER."

At the trial evidence was given by Dr. Murray Lindsay, of the Derby County Asylum, and Dr. Russell, of the Lincoln Lunatic Hospital, that they found the prisoner insane at the time of their examination, and labouring under delusions of persecution. He believed he was shunned by his friends and that Creasey

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was the cause of this. He believed that Creasey had gone out of his way to annoy him. He was unable to specify how Creasey had done this, except that he was "clandestine and insidious." He knew he was doing it, but how he did it he could not tell because he was so "clandestine and insidious." He said that he had suffered in spirit, and his life was made miserable and unbearable, by the clandestine conduct of Creasey, and though Creasey was a weakly man, he felt he could only get at him by shooting him. They were of opinion that after his wife's death Barker suffered from mental depression, and that at the time he shot Creasey, he was under these same delusions of persecution, that his conduct and actions were so ruled and dominated by these delusions as to render him irresponsible; that though he knew the nature and quality of the act, and probably knew that it was contrary to law, he believed himself justified.

Dr. Bastian gave evidence that he had not found Barker insane, but that he had "unfounded suspicions," which were not easily to be distinguished from delusions. He believed him to be a man morbidly sensitive brooding over a supposed wrong, and this sort of thing had gone on for a couple of years, Creasey always being in his sight. He had attempted no violence, and the thing that led to the action was the issue of the summonses.*

Dr. Bastian did not consider him any more insane at the time of the shooting than any man might be said to be who was in a paroxysm of passion. "I am perfectly clear that he is not mad now, but whether he was mad at the time of the act I am not so positive, but my strong conviction is that in all probability he was not mad."

Mr. Mitchinson, the prison surgeon, stated that he had not seen any symptoms of insanity in the prisoner whilst in the prison. He agreed that a man suffering from ideas of persecution, if they were persistent, was insane.

The JUDGE, in summing up, put two questions to the jury. 1st—Did the prisoner know the nature and quality of the act? 2nd—Did he know that the act was wrong, not in the sense of being contrary to the laws of the country, but contrary to the man's internal idea of right and wrong?

The charge to the jury was marked by great fairness. The impression it conveyed was that the Judge leaned to the opinion that the prisoner was insane at the time he committed the murder.

The Jury returned a verdict of "Guilty," and not insane.

Two experts (Drs. Nicolson and Braine) were afterwards sent by the Home Office to examine Barker, the consequence of their report being that the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life.

We understand that Barker is to be at Broadmoor for three months under observation, and that if his mental condition at the end of that time is sound he will be treated as an ordinary criminal.

Obituaries.

M. CHARCOT.

This Prince of neurologists, and an Honorary Member of this Association died August 16th, 1893, a loss to medical psychology and neurology which can scarcely be exaggerated. Original in his observations, earnest in the pursuit of the knowledge of nervous diseases, rapid but sound in his diagnosis, a master in clinical medicine and pathology, he has left a void which no contemporary is likely to fill.

Jean Martin Charcot was born in Paris, November 29th, 1825, and was therefore in his 68th year when he died. He was of somewhat humble origin,

* Barker, however, had previously attempted to assault Creasey, had written threatening letters in July or August, had complained of the noises, saying they were done to annoy him, had abused Mrs. Wilkinson, and, therefore, they were obliged to take out the summonses.

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