sutures at the base of the skull. Deformities of parietal and occipital bones may be more or less harmless, compensatory growth being possible, but such is not the case with respect to the bones attached at once to the face and the base of the skull. Normal ossification having occurred, the base of the skull will be symmetrical, and it is long since the theory was advanced that deformity of the occipital foramen played a part in the production of epilepsy. Want of symmetry in the base of the skull is revealed by a similar condition of the bones of the face, and this condition may easily be detected. In the true epileptic, it consists of a projection of one of the halves of the frontal, generally the right. As a rule, it occupies a position over the eye, but may be found more posteriorly reaching to the fronto-parietal suture. This projection may be detected by sight and touch, and other deformities may then be looked for. These are found in the orbit, the malar bones, and the palate. The soft parts may participate in the deformity, the eyebrows and lips being altered in position, or the folds of the skin more marked on one side than the other.

Rare Case of Nervous Disease. Life in part double.

In this case the patient was a girl of about thirteen years, of scrofulous habit, and with a family history of nervous disease. The peculiar feature of the malady was the recurrence, at intervals, of attacks, during which the patient was conscious of, and recognised only, one-half of her surroundings. Thus she would rise from bed, dress, and occupy herself in domestic work, and fail to discover that any one seated near her was in the room. Of these attacks she had no recollection. Some months later, menstruation having become established, the attacks disappeared, or nearly so.

PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

THE COUNTY FINANCIAL BOARDS' BILL.

A special meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on Wednesday, February 27th, at the request of a number of its members, with reference to the effects of this Bill upon the position of superintendents and other officers of County Lunatic Asylums. Dr. Blandford presided, and there were present Dr. Bucknill, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Manley, Dr. Maudsley, Drs. Parsey, Hack Tuke, Christie, Adams, Rayner, Nicholson, Paul, Major, Stocker, Daniels, Wright, Lindsay, Duckworth Williams, Green, Savage, Sutherland, Walford, and two or three others.

Dr. ROGERS introduced the subject, observing that the County Lunatic Asylums of England, as now managed by committees of the country magistrates, would compare favourably with any other asylums in this country, or in Europe or America. But it was now proposed to put them under the management of the new County Financial Boards. The medical superintendents of such asylums felt naturally anxious to know what the effect of this change

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would be on their own personal prospects. Their case was not exactly like that of the Poor Law medical officers, who usually accepted their posts with a view to waiting for the chance of getting a private practice. But all they could just now ask of the Government was to postpone that part of the intended legislation which affected the county lunatic asylums, until the report of the Select Committee upon a consolidation of the Lunacy Acts should have been received. What they must especially desire was the confirmation of their existing rights with regard to retiring pensions. He mentioned an instance that lately occurred in Lancashire, where a disposition to withhold these rights had been shown. They were, however, in general fairly treated by the existing managers of the asylums, and they ought not to be placed in jeopardy of a worse position. It would make them feel more safe, if the Government would undertake the payment of salaries and pensions in the asylums, instead of the present Treasury allowance of four shillings a week for each pauper inmate. He moved that a deputation be appointed to wait upon Mr. Sclater-Booth.

Dr. ADAMS (Cornwall) bore testimony that the superannuated and retiring officers of an asylum were now fairly and generously dealt with by the magistrates. If the management was henceforth to be placed in other hands, he should wish to see a provision inserted in the Bill, that a superintendent or other officer of an asylum, after twenty or thirty years' service, should be entitled to a pension equal to two-thirds of his salary.

Dr. BUCKNILL (who wrote upon the subject in the "Journal" more than twenty years ago, with reference to the case of the Rainhill Asylum), expressed his strong opinion that the custody of the insane poor ought never to be entrusted to the Poor Law Guardians, or to Boards elected by them. It was a matter involving the power of imprisonment, and should be reserved for the justices or magistrates. He would urge upon Mr. Sclater-Booth, and upon Parliament dealing with this Bill, that the management of asylums, and treatment of the insane, should still be left to committees of the county magistrates, only allowing the elective members of the County Boards to participate in the financial business of the asylums, which might be reserved for quarterly meetings.

After some conversation, in which Dr. PARSEY, Dr. NICHOLSON, and others took part, a resolution that a deputation should see Mr. Sclater-Booth, and should ask him to except the management of lunatic asylums from the operation of the Bill, was moved by Dr. ROGERS, seconded by Dr. MANLEY, and carried unanimously. Dr. PARSEY next proposed a resolution in accordance with the view of Dr. Bucknill, that in the event of Government not consenting to except asylums from the Bill, the deputation should ask for a restriction of the powers given to the new elective members of County Boards, with regard to asylums, limiting them to financial affairs, but leaving the general management of asylums in the hands of the Visiting Justices. This was seconded by Dr. LINDSAY, and carried unanimously.

A third resolution was moved by Dr. PARSEY, declaring it to be the opinion of the Association that the officers of county asylums ought, after twenty-five years' service, to have a claim by right to retiring pensions of not less than two-thirds of the value of their offices. It was considered by the Chairman and other members inexpedient to make this part of the instructions to the deputation which would go to Mr. Sclater-Booth, as it would seem to exceed the scope of the Bill now before Parliament. But several of the members warmly supported the view set forth in this resolution, and different modifications of it were propounded; one being that the retiring pension above-mentioned should be a claim of right for officers of asylums above fifty-five years of age, after twenty-five years' service. But it was added that this provision of right should not interfere with the existing permissive power of granting pensions in other cases, which is now vested in the Committees of

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Visiting Justices and Courts of Quarter Sessions, and which is to be transferred to the County Financial or Administrative Boards. Dr. MANLEY, in supporting the resolution, quoted the report of a Select Committee of Parliament, in April last, on the Police Superannuation Fund. That Select Committee was in favour of adopting the principle that the claim to a certain pension, after a certain number of years' service, should be recognised as a right; the pension to be calculated upon a scale rising, by fiftieths of the wages or salary, at a varying rate, in different successive terms of service years. It was recommended by the Select Committee that, after fifteen years' service, any member of the police retiring upon a medical certificate of infirmity should have a claim to such pension; but that after twenty-five years' service any one should have a right to it without that condition. The medical superintendents of lunatic asylums ought to be treated as well as police constables. After some conversation to this effect, the resolution was passed.

A deputation was subsequently chosen to seek an interview with the President of the Local Government Board next day.

Before the meeting separated, Dr. HACK TUKE brought under notice another part of the Bill, which gave the County Boards power to establish special asylums for the imbecile or idiot children of the poor, similar to that established at Clapton, under the Metropolitan Asylums Act. His object was that this should not be regarded as Poor-Law parochial relief, as there were many respectable artisans and others who ought not to be looked upon as paupers, and who might be glad to pay what they could afford towards the maintenance of an idiot child in such an asylum, though it was erected at the cost of the poor rate. He moved a resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Adams, and was agreed to, that this opinion should be expressed by the Association. This concluded the business of the meeting.

On the next day (Thursday, the 28th), the deputation waited upon Mr. Sclater-Booth, at the Office of the Local Government Board, in Whitehall.

DEPUTATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

On Thursday, the 28th February, 1878, a deputation composed of members of the Medico-Psychological Association waited on the Right Honourable Sclater Booth, M.P., in reference to the "County Boards Bill." Among those present were Colonel Ireland Blackburne, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Adams, Dr. Lindsay, Dr. Stocker, Dr. Manley, Dr. Hack Tuke, Dr. Bucknill, and Dr. Rhys Williams.

Colonel IRELAND BLACKBURNE, in introducing the deputation, said: I have much pleasure in introducing to you, sir, the gentlemen whose names have been laid before you, and who constitute the deputation from the Medico-Psychological Association. Without any further preface, I may say that they desire to lay before you certain things in connection with some of the clauses in the "Local Boards Bill," which is to be submitted to Parliament for its consideration.

Dr. MANLEY—As one of the deputation of the Medico-Psychological Association, I have been requested to call your attention to the first resolution passed at a special general meeting of the Association, to which I have the honour to belong, on this important question. The resolution is as follows:—"That County Asylums in common with Prisons and Police be exempted from the operations of the County Government Bill." They think further, that if it has been considered necessary to exclude prisons from the Bill now under consideration, there is at least the same reason why asylums should be exempted from its operation; the patients being, in fact, *quasi* prisoners during their residence in the asylum. I beg you will permit me to mention some reasons why it appears to this Association that County Asylums and their staffs should

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