(1) Toxæmic cases, which are favorable in prognosis.
(2) Hallucinatory, in the main favorable in prognosis.
(3) Those resembling general paralysis of the insane, frequently favorable.

The Relation of the Lunacy Laws to Neuro-psychological Disease.

Dr. McCormac brought forward certain points which he considered required remedying in connection with the relation of the existing lunacy laws to neuro-psychological disease—(1) in the direction of protecting the certifying medical man against legal action taken by discharged patients, especially laying stress on the danger of the *dictum* of Mr. Justice Field (Toogood *v.* Wilkes) that the onus of proving the absence of *mala fides* lies with the defending medical man; (2) in the direction of establishing hospitals (as distinguished from asylums) "*in which special attention should be paid to the treatment of diseases of the nervous system*," in which mental cases may be treated by restrictions without limiting the liberty of the patient. The result of this, he maintains, would be (but does not bring any evidence to show the basis of this belief) that there could be but few cases of failure, and this small percentage of failures would be dealt with as the law directs.

He agreed with most alienist physicians in urging the extreme importance of mental cases being brought under early treatment, instancing cases in which lives had been wrecked by the unfortunate tendency to keep patients at home, or give them change of scene and air, etc.

Cardio-psychical Association.

Dr. Whitwell suggested for consideration and examination certain morbid cardiac states which appeared to have some association with mental symptoms, illustrating some of them under the following classification:

(1) Mental associations of acute cardiac disease.
(2) Conditions of imbecility associated with cardio-vascular hypoplasia.
(3) Conditions of mental immaturity associated with early heart disease, congenital or acquired.
(4) Mental variation in an abnormal direction associated with valvular disease of the heart in the adult.
(5) Heart delirium associated with uncompensated lesions.
(6) Mental changes associated with acute cardiac asthenia.
(7) Mental changes associated with the cardiac asthenia and erethism of fibroid degeneration in senility.
(8) Pathological eupathy occurring in late heart disease.

Organo-therapeutics in Mental Disease.

Dr. Easterbrook (Morningside) read a paper founded upon an exhaustive examination of the use of various animal extracts in various forms of mental disease extending over a considerable period of time. Of 130 cases of insanity treated with thyroid extract twelve patients recovered, twenty-nine were improved, and eighty-nine remained unimproved. Those who recovered included cases of myxœdema, stupor, puerperal and lactational melancholia, and simple and climacteric melancholia. Parathyroid and thymus extracts gave negative results. Ovarin was given in thirty-six cases, with temporary improvement only in four cases, and none in the rest. The total results of organo-therapeutic treatment were not very favorable except in myxœdematous and stuporous states.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

Imbeciles Training Institutions Bill.—*May 2nd.*

Mr. Tomlinson (Preston) moved the second reading of this Bill to exempt certain institutions from rating. Five philanthropic institutions were affected.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.46.195.818 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Mr. T. W. Russell promised that they would be included with hospitals in a reference to a Select Committee. The Bill was withdrawn.

YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS BILL.—*May 21st.*

Sir M. WHITE-RIDLEY moved the second reading of this Bill to diminish imprisonment among offenders under the age of sixteen, and to extend the power of whipping. In his reply on the discussion, Sir M. White-Ridley recognised that there was a sharp division of opinion, and the debate stood adjourned by the rules of the House.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD BILL.—*June 25th.*

This Bill was reported for third reading.

LUNACY REGULATION (IRELAND) BILL.—*June 25th.*

This Bill was read a second time. Lord ASHBOURNE said that it was to introduce useful provisions now in operation in England, and to permit of the conditional discharge of criminal lunatics.

THE ST. PANCRAS SCANDALS.—*June 26th.*

Lord RUSSELL OF KILLOWEN called attention to this matter, and asked what proceedings were to be taken.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that his attention had been called to the case by the Lunacy Commissioners, who had sent him a draft clause for insertion in the Lunacy Bill, which had not yet passed into law. He had also received a communication from the Local Government Board, and a circular letter to Boards of Guardians was to be sent out.

June 28th.

Mr. J. Burns having made inquiries in reference to this matter, Mr. CHAPLAIN said that he had directed an immediate investigation by the Local Government Board, and a communication to be made to Metropolitan Boards of Guardians.

THE CASE OF PRIVATE WEIR.—*July 10th.*

In reply to Mr. P. O'Brien and others, Mr. WYNDHAM said that Private Weir had been invalided home from South Africa as a lunatic; his insanity not being the result of his army service no pension could be given him.

LUNACY BILL (ENGLAND).—*July 16th.*

This Bill was withdrawn.

LUNACY BOARD (SCOTLAND) SALARIES BILL.—*July 19th.*

This Bill was read a third time.

PROPOSED EXEMPTION OF HOSPITALS FROM LOCAL RATES.

Evidence was taken by the Select Committee on June 22nd and subsequent dates. A claim has been made for exemption by various institutions for the feeble-minded and epileptic.

RECENT MEDICO-LEGAL CASES.

REPORTED BY DR. MERCIER.

[The editors request that members will oblige by sending full newspaper reports of all cases of interest as published by the local press at the time of the assizes.]

Reg. v. *O'Hara.*

Denis O'Hara, 39, labourer, was indicted for murder of his daughter, aged six, May 21st. Prisoner had left work for about a fortnight before the murder, and during that time had been drinking. On the morning of the 21st May he started

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.46.195.818 Published online by Cambridge University Press