affected, is sometimes met with in the bodies of those in whom there has been neither mental derangement nor mental weakness.

The symptoms exhibited during life were such as would naturally accompany the morbid conditions found after death. The difficulty of breathing, the inability to lie down in bed, and the lowness of the voice were attributable to the state of the heart and lungs. The wish to return to America a few days before his death, when he was manifestly unfit for such a voyage, seems to have been such a longing as is sometimes exhibited by dying persons, who believe, in spite of assurances to the contrary, that they might recover if they were only back in the scenes of their youth or of their former activity and health. It may be presumed that the increasing weakness of body during the last few days of life, and a probable deficient supply of blood to the brain in consequence of the diseased state of the heart, had in some degree impaired his judgment and affected the vigour of his mind.

Whether the provisions of the will indicate entirely free and rational action will, of course, depend somewhat on what were the testator's former relations to his brothers, and to those persons to whom he has left the bulk of his property.

The medicines which he was taking up to the time of his death were not of a character to affect the mind.

Judging from the data supplied in the evidence of the witnesses, and in the report of the *post mortem* examination, I do not perceive valid reasons for supposing that the will signed on the 20th May, twelve days before death, was not the voluntary act of a person of sound mind.

The gentleman who did us the honour to request our opinion upon the evidence, and who introduced himself as a Judge ——, was, we fear, disappointed with the result. We have heard no more of him since. He no doubt believes that English physicians give gratuitous advice to their American cousins. H. M.

CLINICAL NOTES AND CASES.

Bromide of Potassium in Epilepsy, by P. Norton Manning, M.D., Inspector of the Insane in New South Wales.

In the "Practitioner" for January, 1874, the late Dr. Anstie related a case of Epilepsy "cured" by Bromide of Potassium as the solitary instance within his own experience in which well-developed fits were completely stopped and remained absent long after the discontinuance of the medicine, and mentioned that Dr. Hughlings Jackson, whose general experience on this subject was in substantial agree-

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ment with his own, had never seen such a case. The combined experience of Dr. Anstie and Dr. Hughlings Jackson must have extended over such a wide field that I do not doubt but that the two following cases, in which Bromide of Potassium, in combination with Cannabis Indica, appeared to "cure" well-marked and established Epilepsy, will be interesting:—

Wm. J. B., æt. 6, was admitted into the Asylum for Imbeciles, &c., at Newcastle, N.S.W., on February 5th, 1872, from the Catholic Orphanage at Parramatta. The Lady Superior, who was not able to give any information as to his parents, stated that he was one of two brothers who had been for upwards of two years under her care, and that he was a bright, intelligent boy. The first epileptic attack came on without apparent cause six months before his admission to the Newcastle Asylum, and was very severe; the subsequent attacks were frequent and severe, and the lad slowly became imbecile. The Visiting Medical Officer of the Orphanage, in signing the necessary forms for admission, described him as extremely imbecile, and quite incurable. On arrival he was found to be very weak-minded, dirty in habits, and partially paralysed in the lower extremities; the fits were very frequent and severe, and no peripheral cause whatever could be detected. After admission he slowly retrograded until early in July, 1872, when special treatment was commenced by Mr. Richard Harris, the Medical Officer of the Asylum, to whom I am indebted for notes as to the treatment of the case. Fifteen grains of Bromide of Potassium, with fifteen drops of Tincture of Cannabis Indica, were given three times daily; the fits soon became less frequent, and at the end of four months, during the whole of which time the treatment was steadily continued, had quite ceased. With the cessation of the epileptic paroxysms there was decided improvement in both mental and bodily power, and by the end of the year health had been completely re-established. In April, 1874, treatment having been for many months discontinued, and the fits remaining absent, I concurred in recommending his discharge from the Asylum, and he returned to the Orphanage, where he has remained quite well up to the present time.

T. B., æt. 17, was admitted into the Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville, N.S.W., on June 9th, 1873. He had been an epileptic for eleven years. The fits at first occurred at rare intervals, but had latterly became much more frequent and severe, and decided failure of mental power had supervened. On his admission the manner was dull and heavy, and the memory much impaired. The epileptic fits were frequent and severe, occurred both by day and night, and were often preceded by an "Aura" consisting of pain and twitching in the right hand and arm. No peripheral cause could be discovered, and the

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assigned cause, an injury to the head occurring three years before the fits commenced, and leaving no scar, was more than doubtful. After remaining under my immediate observation for six weeks, the patient was transferred to the Newcastle Asylum, and Mr. Harris at once placed him under treatment consisting of Bromide of Potassium and Tincture of Cannabis Indica, in half-drachm doses, three times daily. He had no fit after commencing to take the medicine, which was continned for eight months. The mental condition greatly improved, and the patient showed himself aware of the benefit of regular treatment, and applied for an extra dose of medicine on the occurrence of any threatening symptoms. The patient was discharged in April, 1874. He has since lived at a short distance from the Newcastle Asylum, and up to the present time has remained quite well. His father, in a letter received a few days since, speaks of him as quite well, and as "never having a fit or a sign of one," since discharge.

With respect to the general value of Bromide of Potassium in Epilepsy, the experience of Mr. Harris at the Newcastle Asylum, as well as my own in the Gladesville Hospital, is largely in its favour. In all except a small number of cases the frequency and severity of the paroxysms are much reduced, whilst the health improves under its administration. In a considerable number of cases in which fits occurred three or four times daily they have been reduced under treatment by the Bromide to one or two a month, whilst a great improvement in general health has been coincident with this marked diminution in the number of epileptic paroxysms. It has always seemed to me much more efficacious in combination with Cannabis Indica than alone, and much more serviceable in children than in adults, and in young adults than in old ones. In a small number of cases, whilst diminishing the frequency of the fits, it has seemed to increase their severity, and caused the collection into one paroxysm of the mental and bodily disturbance which before found vent in a series, but I am quite unable to point out anything to distinguish these cases, except that they are, as a rule, if not always, adults of at least 30 years of age.

The Proportion of Epileptics to the Ordinary Asylum Population.

The proportion which Epileptics bear to other patients in asylums was suggested as an interesting subject for report at the meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association held in August, 1873. As nearly the whole of the insane in this colony are collected in four institutions, the number living

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