that they are unjust to medical men, and unfavorable to the interests of the insane. The disadvantageous circumstances connected with the system of licences, and the objectionable requirement of certificates, might be shown to be ineffective for any good purpose, and the modification of both fairly represented to be compatible with the fullest security for the insane, and even productive of extended advantages to persons so afflicted. There are other points worthy of notice by the committee, and which must some day obtain public consideration: as the neglect of medical opinions, and of all sanitary principles, in the construction of county asylums; and the incredible disregard of mental disorders in the course of study in our English medical schools. These are only defects arising from the unregarded position of our specialty, but the time has arrived when they ought to be removed.

QUARTERLY PSYCHOLOGICAL REVIEW.

NOTES ON BOOKS, ETC.

What's in a name?

THE name of our Journal has been the subject of some cavil, as if it were too ambitious for the practical objects of our association. As the members are aware, it is not the name originally selected by ourselves, but is one which was selected and adopted at a general meeting of the association, and is therefore stamped with an authority which we do not think within the scope of our editorial powers to alter. But as it has been made the theme of somewhat vehement protest, by those whose opinions we respect, it will be worth while to inquire whether the name is fitting to our work and becoming to our purpose.

> "What's in a name?
> That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet,"

says the fair Juliet, arguing, as it must be owned, rather sophistically in the heat of her passion; for in very truth, there is much in a name, a fact which poets are not slow to recognise when it suits their purpose.

> "O, Amos Cottle! Phœbus, what a name!
> To fill the speaking-trump of future fame!"

And who will assert that Byron's sarcasm was not weighed with logic, though it was pointed with malice. "He well knew that

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mere names exercise a mighty influence on the public mind," observes Lord Macaulay, of Somers. "Give a dog a bad name and hang him," says the proverb, which some of our associates seem to have thought might have been verified if we had retained the modest but intelligible title of 'The Asylum Journal.'

Periodicals appear to flourish under names which may generally be classified as local, or proprietory, or as descriptive. Journals of general literature, mainly affect one of the two former classes of name—'Fraser's,' and 'Blackwood's,' and 'Macmillan's,' magazines, the 'Edinburgh,' 'Westminster,' 'Cornhill,' &c. The obvious reason of this is that the variety of subject matter which they embrace does not easily permit the limitation of a descriptive title.

Scientific journals, on the other hand, have generally affected names so far descriptive as to indicate the kind of science with which they have to deal. Every one knows, for instance, what he may expect to find in the pages of the 'Pharmaceutical Journal,' or the 'Microscopic Journal,' or in the wider field of the 'Medico-Chirurgical Review;' and such an attempt to designate the particular science which it is proposed to cultivate would appear to be both honest and modest, since it is an engagement to deal with a certain defined article of literary commerce, and to limit the enterprise within specified bounds.

In adopting our title of the 'Journal of Mental Science,' published by authority of the medical officers of the asylums and hospitals for the insane, we profess that we cultivate in our pages mental science of a particular kind, namely, such mental science as appertains to medical men who are engaged in the treatment of the insane. But it has been objected that the term mental science is inapplicable, and that the terms, mental physiology, or mental pathology, or psychology, or psychiatry (a term much affected by our German brethren), would have been more correct and appropriate; and that, moreover, we do not deal in mental science, which is properly the sphere of the aspiring metaphysical intellect. If mental science is strictly synonymous with metaphysics, these objections are certainly valid, for although we do not eschew metaphysical discussion, the aim of this Journal is certainly bent upon more attainable objects than the pursuit of those recondite inquiries which have occupied the most ambitious intellects from the time of Plato to the present, with so much labour and so little result. But while we admit that metaphysics may be called one department of mental science, we maintain that mental physiology and mental pathology are also mental science under a different aspect. While metaphysics may be called speculative mental science, mental physiology and pathology, with their vast range of inquiry into insanity, education, crime, and all things which tend to preserve mental health or to produce mental disease,

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are not less questions of mental science in its practical, that is, in its sociological, point of view. If it were not unjust to high mathematics to compare it in any way with abstruse metaphysics, it would illustrate our meaning to say, that our practical mental science would fairly bear the same relation to the mental science of the metaphysicians, as applied mathematics bears to the pure science. In both instances the aim of the pure science is the attainment of abstract truth; its utility, however, frequently going no further than to serve as a gymnasium for the intellect. In both instances the mixed science aims at, and, to a certain extent, attains, immediate practical results of the greatest utility to the welfare of mankind; we therefore maintain that our Journal is not inaptly called the 'Journal of Mental Science,' although the science may only attempt to deal with sociological and medical inquiries, relating either to the preservation of the health of the mind or to the amelioration or cure of its diseases; and although not soaring to the height of abstruse metaphysics, we only aim at such metaphysical knowledge as may be available to our purposes as the mechanician uses the formularies of mathematics. This is our view of the kind of mental science which physicians engaged in the grave responsibility of caring for the mental health of their fellow-men may, in all modesty, pretend to cultivate; and while we cannot doubt that all additions to our certain knowledge in the speculative department of the science will be great gain, the necessities of duty and of danger must ever compel us to pursue that knowledge which is to be obtained in the practical departments of science, with the earnestness of real workmen. The captain of a ship would be none the worse for being well acquainted with the higher branches of astronomical science, but it is the practical part of that science as it is applicable to navigation which he is compelled to study.

If we are right in our interpretation of the term mental science, there can be no question that we are fully entitled to the use we have made of it in these pages. The question, however, of "what is mental science?" is a more comprehensive one than we can on the present occasion attempt fully to examine. What is the bond of alliance between cerebral physiology and metaphysics? is another question which must be solved before we can approach to the answer of the former one, and it is one upon which much learning and ingenuity have been fruitlessly expended. What is mental science? is therefore no vain question; it is, perhaps, even one which in competent hands may hereafter serve to illustrate Mills's remark, that "some of the most profound and most valuable investigations which philosophy presents to us have been introduced by, and have offered themselves under the guise of, inquiries into the definition of a name."

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