The CHAIRMAN said it struck him that the term Kalmuc was a very objectionable term. He thought there was nothing marked about the Kalmuc, and there was no reason for nicknaming an idiot by calling him a Kalmuc. He thought this uncalled-for term should be departed from. Why did they call such an one a Kalmuc? The idiot is no more a Kalmuc than any other human being.

Dr. FRASER—It is so called on account of the form of the eyes and the size of the head.

IMPULSIVE INSANITY.

Dr. MACLAREN read a paper on "Impulsive Insanity."*

The CHAIRMAN said he thought this was a very interesting paper, and he would be glad to hear observations upon it. His own idea was that it was a case of epilepsy—a variety of epilepsy—and was one of those to which criminal insanity belonged, and he asked whether the lady had been under any treatment at all.

Dr. MACLAREN replied that she seemed to have been greatly over-drugged.

Dr. CLOUSTON said his idea was that it was most closely allied to epilepsy, but not quite that disease. There were many of the features of the case that made it very analogous to what was called automatism. Looked at from a physiological point of view the case was one of automatic and unconscious cerebration. On the previous day he had met the lady walking with two attendants. They had each hold of one hand, and seemed to be somewhat afraid of her. He told them to let go her hand and she would walk with him. She walked round the asylum grounds perfectly well except on passing a heap of manure, when she ran towards it and tried to take hold of the spade that was in it. He afterwards asked her why she went to the manure. "Well," she replied, "I never can pass a heap of manure without an impulse to go to it, because when I was a girl I denied Christ." He asked "How?" She said, "Because when I was once told some good thing had to be done, I made an excuse and would not do it. I went out after I had said so, and I thought that as I had denied Christ I would take to very low work to make up for it, and the first thing that I saw was some dung, which I at once began to spread." It appeared that her pastor had quoted a particular passage of Scripture with reference to the meaning of denying Christ, and she had never passed a heap of dung ever since without having an impulse to go and spread it, thinking at the same time of that passage, and repeating it aloud. This was certainly an automatic action of the brain, or, as some physiologists would call it, a reflex action, and illustrated the morbid brain-working which resulted in those impulsive acts, described by Dr. Maclaren. I believe she had been heavily drugged by bromide of potassium, chloral, and other drugs. Since she came to Morningside she had got scarcely anything of that kind; nothing but fresh air and food, and in some respects, she was better in regard to her mental state, but these impulsive attacks came on, and during each of her conditions the very same association of ideas and reflex acts occurred. In the one case she was conscious, and in the other unconscious, which was very interesting as regards the mode of action of the higher centres of the brain, that being entirely independent of what is called consciousness. He thought the paper was very interesting and well written.

Dr. CAMPBELL said that there were many people who believed that hæmatoma was caused by injury. Now he would like to know Dr. Maclaren's experience on that subject in regard to what he had seen at Morningside. He directed attention to the occurrence of impulsive acts the result of masturbation.

Dr. MACLAREN said his opinion was that it might occur independently of injury.

LUNACY ACTS.

Dr. SKAE then read "Remarks on Lunacy Acts (Scotland)," by Dr. Rorie.

The CHAIRMAN said it was a great practical inconvenience to certify every-

* See "Medical Times and Gazette," Jan., 1876.

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