Insanity of Twins.

Twins in Similar States of Imbecility. By ARTHUR FFLINTOFF MICKLE, M.B., Kirklington.

CASE I.—A. D., aged 40. Single. The elder of twins. He is a very short and strongly-built man; has a bullet-shaped head and narrow forehead, high cheek bones, a largely developed lower jaw and big mouth. He has brown hair, prominent and shaggy eyebrows, small grey eyes, and is of sanguine temperament. The facial expression is that of a weak-minded, cunning and mischievous person, but frequently he indulges in a broad grin, and then looks rather good-natured.

The only history I can gather, and which relates equally to this patient and his twin brother, is as follows :—Their father was insane, but there is no history of insanity on their mother's side; other members of the family, viz., a brother, and especially a sister, are of weak intellect. No definite history of phthisis or any constitutional disease could be obtained. This patient has always been weak-minded, has had no serious illness, and has enjoyed good bodily health.

Present Mental State.—He is very childish in manner, is easily led and induced by others to do wrong; he is very cunning, mischievous, and takes great delight in committing petty acts of theft. His memory and judgment are very defective, and he cannot form an opinion on any subject with which he is not familiar, nor has he any idea of his age; he can, however, converse a little, and perform many of the ordinary duties of life; knows the people with whom he associates daily, has some affection for his friends, and can take care of himself. When not allowed to do as he wishes he frequently becomes very passionate, and can scarcely control himself; usually he is quiet and fairly well behaved.

CASE II.—W. D., aged 40. Single. The younger of twins. This man is the same height and very similar in build and appearance to his twin brother. He has the same coloured hair, similar eyes and eyebrows, and is of the same temperament, but his lower jaw is very largely developed and protrudes slightly, and he has a sulky and more cunning facial expression than the other twin. He was never so weak-minded as his twin brother, but of a more passionate, quarrelsome and depraved nature. He was always weak-minded, has had no serious illness, and enjoys good bodily health.

Present Mental State.—He is not so childish in manner nor so good-natured as his twin brother, but often sulks, is very depraved and vicious, and frequently commits petty acts of theft. His memory is weak, and his judgment defective, and he cannot give an opinion on a subject with which he is not familiar, nor does he know his age, but he can converse in a simple way, and knows the people with whom he

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associates. He can, like his twin brother, perform many of the ordinary duties of life, and is able to take care of himself, but he is irritable and much more passionate, and occasionally when thwarted gives way to fits of ungovernable rage, amounting nearly to short maniacal attacks. He is, however, usually fairly well behaved.

From the foregoing notes it will be seen that there is a marked resemblance in the twin brothers. Thus—both men are imbecile, and the degree of mental weakness is almost equal in the two, and corresponds, I think, to the first of the three classes into which Hoffbauer divided imbecility. Both are very passionate, liable to paroxysms of anger, very depraved and prone to commit petty acts of theft. They are also of the same height, and are very much alike in build and appearance, but there is a difference in the facial expression, for whilst the younger has usually a sulky countenance, the elder twin's face is frequently brightened by a broad grin or imbecile smile.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

The Recent Lunacy Appointment.

One feature of this Journal is to comment upon the topic or topics of the Quarter possessing most interest to the special branch of medicine, of which it is the accredited organ. In accordance with this practice we should have offered some observations on an event which has aroused so much feeling as the appointment recently made in the Lunacy Board consequent upon the resignation of Dr. Nairne.

When a similar appointment was made many years ago, Mr. Cairns raised his voice in Parliament against it, but in vain; and equally fruitless was the eloquent appeal made by the then Editor of the Journal, Dr. Bucknill, who acknowledged that he "would fain have avoided the invidious task of commenting upon it, but that the indignant letters he had received from members of the Association made it his imperative duty to express his entire disapproval of the principle or want of principle upon which the choice of the Government had been made;" being, as he continued, a heavy blow and great discouragement to all medical men practising in lunacy, whether in or out of asylums. "How can men instruct who have never learnt? How can men direct the most difficult of labour who have never sub-

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