ing from the disease and during convalescence than they had been before they were attacked, some of them being rendered permanently worse. In most of the fatal cases the lungs were affected by pneumonia, pleurisy, or bronchitis, with pericarditis coming on secondarily. Five of the cases who died of indirect effects either developed consumption or, having it previously, got worse and died soon. The very interesting and important question of why the staff, sane and strong as they were, took the disease in nearly three times the proportion of the patients—10·5 per cent. against 30·3 per cent. of the total numbers of each class—was not one to be dogmatized about in such a report as that. It was one about which different opinions had been expressed. His own belief was that it was owing to the staff going into town, and going about generally, and so breathing the infection in the open air at different places, while the patients were necessarily obliged to breathe a more localized air."

SURGICAL TREATMENT OF HALLUCINATIONS.

(*Gazzetta degli Ospitali*, No. 92.)

Dr. Burckhardt has subjected six cases of insanity to operative treatment. Twice he made it his object to intersect the paths of association which, according to him, transmit the pathological impressions coming from certain sensory parts and certain ideogenic parts of the brain. To effect this, he removed portions of the frontal and parietal lobes before and behind the ascending convolutions. In one of these cases the result was very satisfactory; in the other, which is still under treatment, the improvement was only partial. In the remaining four cases there were hallucinations more or less acute, and the indication was to suppress and to reduce the hallucinations of sound more or less. Burckhardt believes that verbal hallucinations can only be produced in a brain in which the logogenetic paths are intact; for the centres, through whose injury sensory and motor aphasia are produced, are indispensable to all genesis of verbal hallucinations. To cure the hallucinations he attacked these centres, and excised parts of the first temporal and of the third frontal, on the left side. The result was satisfactory, though it may be that the improvement will not be permanent. In case of relapse Burckhardt proposes to return to the charge. The fourth patient died of vascular paralysis six days after the operation, which no doubt was the cause of his death. These results Burckhardt considers to be encouraging; he has continued to pursue this line of treatment for two years.—Wm. W. Ireland, M.D., in the *Medical Recorder*.

SCHEME FOR A PATHOLOGICAL INDEX.

We would draw the attention of the members of the Association to a reprint of an article by Dr. Howden (Montrose) in the February number of the "Glasgow Medical Journal." We have no doubt that its general adoption would be the means of rendering a vast amount of pathological material available, which is at the present time practically buried. An index book, to be obtained of some well-known medical publisher, should be prepared for each asylum or hospital.

FIRE AT NORTHGROVE, HAWKHURST, KENT.

We regret to have to record that this Asylum, the property of Dr. Harmer, was destroyed by fire on the 4th December, 1890. The fire broke out in the linen room at about 9 a.m. The room was cased round with pine, with pine ceiling; the fittings were of pine, and the whole was in a few minutes in a blaze.

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The central staircase, which was a handsome erection of pine, and cased in with pine, was burnt down in less than twenty minutes, and the whole asylum, which was a costly structure put up in 1877, under the supervision of the Commissioners, was destroyed in three hours. All the patients were got out safely, with the exception of one lady boarder, who was in the w.c. at the top of the main staircase, where she must have been suffocated by the smoke, which was of the blackest nature, owing to the burning pine wood, etc. One lady had died the night before, and was in her shell, and nothing of her remains have been found; but the remains of the lady boarder were recovered. This is accounted for by there being three large cisterns full of water over the w.c. The origin of the fire was due to the lighting of the linen room fire at 9 a.m., and the coroner's theory is that the girl swept up the hearth and left a lighted ember in the brush, which was put out on the floor after the guard had been put on, and that set fire to a paper and ignited the pine boarding, etc. The building cost over £10,000, and was insured for £6,000. The furniture was insured for £4,000, of which only £2,800 was paid, plus salvage valued at £600. The total loss is about £5,000. It is not intended to rebuild Northgrove, Hawkhurst, but a site has been selected near Tunbridge, which has been approved of by the Commissioners in Lunacy, and plans are now being placed before their Board for approval. The new asylum will be built to accommodate 25 male patients and 25 female, and the corridors and staircases will be fire-proof, etc. It is hoped that the whole will be ready for occupation by the end of 1891. About thirty acres of ground, much of it well laid-out, surround the present mansion. The gentlemen patients late in Northgrove are accommodated in an adjoining house, known as Crane Croft, at Hawkhurst, and the ladies are living in villas there. If the fire had occurred in the night the loss of life would have been excessive.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY.

We have pleasure in reprinting the following notice respecting this well-conducted periodical, as it deserves to be more widely known and appreciated :—
With the number for January, 1891, the Journal enters upon its third year, with its plan reconstructed and both its size and scope enlarged. During the past year, which the editor spent abroad, improved arrangements were made to secure the prompt publication of digests by competent hands of all important books and periodical literature in the various departments of psychology in the chief countries of Europe. No pains will be spared to make this department as complete and as discriminating as possible.

The January number contains original articles on:
The Insanity of Doubt.
Experiments on the effects of Fatigue on Voluntary Muscle-action.
For laboratory studies in fields of experimental psychology.
An empirical study of lying.
The first chapter of a history of the doctrine of reflex action.
A section devoted to the recent literature of neurology.
Another devoted to the recent literature of heredity and sex.
Another to the recent literature of criminology.
Another to experimental psychology.

A department of anthropological psychology will be added in the April number, which will also probably contain an extended study of the brain and sense organs of the well-known blind deaf-mute, Laura Bridgman.

Other subjects which have been represented in the past and will be in the future are: Education on its psychological side, Hypnotism and its therapeutic uses, Neuroses and the border-line phenomena of mental alienation and nervous diseases, with special reference to work in or bearing on experimental psychology.

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