of head, 6¼ inches; of cavity, 5⅓ inches. The length of face was 5⅓ inches, of which the forehead was 1¼; the lower jaw measured from angle to angle, round the chin, six inches; the mouth, two inches. He had twenty-five teeth, of large size, the two upper and front incisors projecting from the mouth, and overlapping the under lip. He had double strabismus inwards, the pupils being of equal size. The ears were each 2½ inches long, and two inches wide.

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## *French Psychiatry.*

The first half of the present year has not been very fruitful in French psychology, or psychiatric literature, either in new publications, or in the Journals especially devoted to that subject. In the "Annales Medico Psychologique," we find a paper on the CAUSES OF INSANITY, by M. Trelat, who maintains as an almost exclusive cause, that of hereditary predisposition, the *law*, and as in itself sufficient, without accidental causes, to develope insanity; and that the usual physical and moral causes are scarcely ever more than a simple determining soil, whose influence is but the element necessary for the germination and development of the innate congenital tendency.

The autobiographical manuscript of a monomaniac is copiously quoted by M. Baillayer in support of his theory of Automatism. The clearness with which the loss of control, the duality of the man, the antagonism between the moral and the volitional, is well described; and a curious remark is, that he ascribes his present mental powers to his stomach; being deprived of natural thought and reflection, it is his stomach which works; where it is as "a tongue which articulates altogether internally;" a state of being, for the description of which, language is at present inadequate. The necessity for such description has only now, or scarcely yet, arrived.

A short paper on the frequency of hallucinations in variola gives us the ratio of five per cent. In twelve cases, eight were males. In four, this phenomena did not exist beyond three days; but in fatal cases, it lasted till death took place; the prognosis is in general favourable.

The cases on legal medicine are always interesting from the clear and precise manner in which they are investigated and reported. Our space is too short to notice them here, beside,



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we intend to analyse, at some future time, an accumulation of them.

The discussions of the Medico-Psychological Society have been entirely confined to the continuation of the previous discussions of last year, on hallucinations. Strictly speaking, hallucination is a vice of special sensational perception, and the chief question discussed was, as to whether it is an altogether abnormal, or only the exaggeration of a normal phenomenon. Neither is the term, nor the phenomena itself, so well understood on this side the channel as it ought to be; but one point is strongly insisted upon, and is of importance in its connection with insanity, namely, its compatibility with sanity, *i. e.*, the correction by sense and reason of its delusive occurrence. The discussion points out clearly the difference between the phenomenon of hallucination, and the state of dreaming, the action of ordinary imagination and real sensation.

J. H. BLOUNT.

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## *The Trial and Execution of William Palmer.*

THERE is little in this event of particular interest to our section of the profession. Throughout the whole course of the proceedings, no trace of mental disease or infirmity was observable in any of the principal actors. Our section of medical science is too important, and already too extended, to render either desirable or profitable the discussion of things in general, under what are called psychological aspects. The intensely excited curiosity of a whole nation is, indeed, an object of psychological interest. The amount of mental effort, of eloquence, learning, and skill, brought to bear upon the conviction of one wretched criminal, the evidences of whose guilt appeared, to unbiassed judgments, superfluously abundant, have presented a strange disproportion of means to an end, and have seemed to dramatize as it were the course of justice, and to apotheosize on his bad eminence, the principal actor. We cannot doubt, that had Palmer's case been of a nature to attract little public attention, half-a-dozen of the witnesses examined would have been amply sufficient to have insured his conviction in the ordinary course of justice. We cannot doubt that such a conviction would have had a more beneficial effect upon the mental health of the community,

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