PART III.—QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.

I. German Psychological Literature.

By JOHN SIBBALD, M.D. Edin., Medical Superintendent of the District Asylum for Argyllshire.

I. Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie, Vol. XXIV., 1867. *Contents.*—"Contraction of the Orifice of the Vertebral Canal in Epilepsy," Prof. Solbrig; "Disorders of the Ear and Insanity," Köppe; "Hypodermic Injection of Medicines," Reissner; "Suicide in the Asylum at Sachsenberg," Löwenhardt; "Two Medico-Legal Reports relating to Dissimulation and Simulation," L. Meyer; "Delirium acutum," Schüle; "On the Pulse of the Insane," Wolff; "Paralysis Universalis Progressiva in the Schleswig Asylum," V. Linstow; "Hæmorrhagic Rupture of Muscles in Severe Cerebral Disease," Schüle; "Idiocy in Brunswick," Berkham; "A Visit to Gheel," v. Krafft-Ebing; "Pathogenesis of Insanity," Schüle. Report of the Meeting of German Alienists at Heppenheim. Report of the Psychiatric Section of the Meeting of the Natural Science Association at Frankfort-on-the-Maine.

II. Vierteljahrsschrift für Psychiatrie, Parts 1 *and* 2, 1867.—*Contents.*—"Meningitis cerebro-spinalis epidemica intermittens," Meschede; "Modern Acquisitions in the Department of Physiological Psychology," Wundt; "Insanity from Embolism of the Cerebral Vessels, with concurrent Mitral Incompetence," Joffe; "Injection of the Brain in Living Animals," Leidesdorf and Stricker; "The Formation of the Cortical Substance of the Cerebrum and its Topical Differences," Meynert; "Clitoridectomy as a Remedy for Hysteria, &c.," J. B. Ullersperger; "Weight of the Brain, and its Relations to Sex, Age, and Insanity," Meynert; "The Mental Element in the Aetiology and Therapeutics of Insanity," Obersteiner; "Acute Intoxication from Alcohol, with Fatal Result," Schauenburg.

Der Irrenfreund for 1867. *Contents.*—"The Writing of the Insane," "Are Nic Hampel and his Daughter Insane," Field; "Report on the Mental Condition of Widow B.," "Hallucinations and Illusions," Brosius; "Remarks on Non-Restraint and Colonies for the Insane," Koster; "Medico-Legal Report on Prisoner X.," Bernay; "History of One Possessed," v. Franque.

Archiv. für Psychiatrie. Parts 1 *and* 2, 1867-68. *Contents.*—"Valleix's Painful Points in Neuralgia," Romberg; "Asylums and their

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further Development in Germany," Griesinger; "The Present Position of our Knowledge of General Paralysis of the Insane," Westphal; "Crania progenæa," L. Meyer; "Absence of Corpus Callosum in the Human Brain," J. Sander; "Introductory Lecture at the Berlin Clinique, 2nd May, 1867," Griesinger; "Public Provision for the Insane in Austria," Schlager; "Atrophy of One Side of the Face," P. Guttmann; "The Free Treatment," Griesinger; "Forensic Examination of the Insane," Liman; "Encephalomalacia," Th. Simon; "Aneurismal Degeneration of the Cortex Cerebri," L. Meyer; "Two Microcephalous Brains," J. Sander; "Hereditary Syphilis and Insanity," E. Mendal; "Method of Examining the Contents of the Cranium," Griesinger; "Certain Epileptic Conditions," Griesinger; "Abnormal Forms of Cranium," L. Meyer; "Epileptiform and Apoplectiform Attacks in Paralytic Insanity," Westphal; "A Special Form of Primary Incoherence," W. Sander; "Pathology of the Sympathetic," Eulenberg and Guttmann.

Contraction of the orifice of the vertebral canal in epilepsy.—Dr. Solbrig, of Munich, reports nine cases in which insanity was associated with epilepsy or epileptiform convulsions, and in which there was found after death such decided contraction of the vertebral canal round the medulla oblongata as to compress that organ. In some of the cases there was considerable alteration in the form of the medulla from being compressed by a hypertrophied odontoid process or other osseous protuberance.

Disorders of hearing in insanity.—Dr. Köppe, of Halle, discusses the connection of affections of the ear with hallucinations of hearing. Out of 97 insane persons he found 31 who suffered from some affection of the ear. In some of these cases there were no hallucinations, but in others there were. In no case of ear affection where there existed simple subjective noises was simultaneous illusion and hallucination of hearing absent; but among 26 not suffering from any affection of the ear there were nine with simple subjective noises, but without hallucinations.

Hypodermic injection of remedies in insanity.—Dr. Reissner, of Hofheim, discusses at length the application of remedies by this method. He only finds it practically useful with narcotics, and recommends Narcine as being the most useful of the alkaloids obtained from opium in cases where a tranquillising or hypnotic effect is desired. He hopes from the result of the use in a few cases of extract of cannabis indica to find it a useful remedy; but his experience of its action is not yet sufficiently extensive.

Suicide in insanity.—Dr. Löwenhardt, who has succeeded Dr. Flemming as superintendent of the asylum at Sachsenberg, gives an analysis of the statistics of suicide as observed in that institution. Since the opening, 37 years ago, 22 patients—13 males and 9 females—have committed suicide. There have been treated during the same period, exclusive of those still remaining in the asylum, 1,892 patients

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—999 males and 893 females—and the total number of deaths has been 447—283 males and 164 females. There are thus about 5 per cent. of the deaths ascribed to suicide, which is a large proportion. In the asylum at Halle there died, between the years 1844 and 1864, 604 persons in all, and of whom 10 were suicides; and in Illenau, from 1842 to 1862, among 547 deaths 16 were suicides. There were thus in Halle only 1·7 per cent., and in Illenau about 3 per cent., ascribed to suicide. In Würzburg there were during 26 years, among 78 deaths, 5 suicides, or more than 6 per cent.; but this was in the period from 1798 to 1824.

Of the 22 cases which occurred in Sachsenberg, 15 occurred in the season from April to September, and seven from October to March. In the morning and forenoon nine effected their object, in the afternoon eight, and five during the night. The modes in which the object was effected were by hanging in 10 cases, and drowning in eight. One patient leapt out of a window; another killed himself by a fall from a tree; a third by a wound in the neck; and a fourth threw himself before an advancing train.

As regards the ages there were—

Between	20	and	30	years of age,	5 patients.
,,	30	,,	40	,,	9 ,,
,,	40	,,	50	,,	5 ,,
,,	50	,,	60	,,	1 ,,
,,	60	,,	70	,,	2 ,,

Twelve were married, one was separated, and nine were unmarried.

The duration of the insanity was in three cases less than six months; in eight cases, from six to twelve months; and in 11, more than a year. In 14, the suicide was accomplished during the first six months of residence, and 10 of these put an end to themselves during the first three months. There was ascertainable hereditary predisposition to insanity in 10 cases; it was absent in 10 cases, and in two cases it could not be ascertained. Fourteen patients suffered from primary melancholia, two from melancholia as a sequel of mania, three from delusions of persecution, two from secondary dementia, and one from epilepsy, with imbecility and excitement. In 19 cases there were previous attempts at suicide, or manifestation of tedium vitæ, so that the event was completely unexpected only in three cases. Hallucinations of hearing were observed in seven cases, but suspected in several others; in one case it appears to have been the direct occasion of the event. This was also the only case in which there was any declaration in writing regarding the deed, or rather regarding the hallucination which led to it.

The author notes that during the first twelve years of the existence of the asylum no suicide took place, and he remarks that neither his predecessor, Dr. Flemming, nor himself can furnish a certain reason for this exemption, though it is worthy of notice that it was just at this

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time that the asylum began to be overcrowded. "In this overcrowding, we must certainly find one of the causes of the evil. There was no longer possible the placing of individual patients in smaller divisions for more careful superintendence; and it became unavoidable that all the patients who disturbed others at night should be placed in a large cell-division,* where there were thus collected the restless melancholics, acute maniacs, dirty patients, and deeply demented; a condition which still continues. By this the supervision is rendered much more difficult, and the opportunities for suicide are increased. The number of such occurrences may be to some extent accounted for by the near neighbourhood of a deep lake, whose banks slope suddenly down at the edge. At any rate, both the overcrowding and the deep lake facilitate the carrying out of such purposes. I am also convinced that melancholia, with suicidal tendency, is much more frequent here, and genuine maniacal excitement more rare, than in the asylums of the middle and south of Germany."

The author alludes to the use of opium, cannabis indica, and cold bathing as remedies against afflictions associated with this impulse, but has little confidence in their efficacy.

Delirium Acutum.—Dr. A. Schüle discusses the question whether there really is a separate form of disease which ought to be recognised under this name; and decides that it is not a disease *sui generis*, but is to be understood as a special pathological *modus* in the course of the symptoms of cerebral affections. The same author also contributes a paper on the

Pathogenesis of Insanity.—Attention is drawn to the important part which is played in modifying and even originating insanity by other organs than the brain. The paper does not admit of abridgement.

Hæmorrhagic Rupture of Muscle, associated with Disease of the Brain.—This paper is also by Dr. Schüle, and relates to three cases in which the affection described by Virchow, Zenker, and Waldeyer was obtained.

The anatomical investigations confirm those of the previous observers; but the author combats Zenker's view that the origin of the disease lies in the spinal cord. He believes that his cases point to a connection between severe lesion of the brain and the muscular degeneration. The muscles affected in his cases were the *rectus abdominalis* and the *psoas*.

A Visit to Gheel.—Dr. von Krafft-Ebing visited this source of so much discussion in November, 1866, and gives his impressions of the visit. He formed a favourable opinion of the system, and is in favour of engrafting some of its features on the asylum system. We have some difficulty, however, in fully appreciating his remarks, as the ordinary views of asylum treatment held by our German brethren prevent them from looking at such matters from the same point of

* Section of the building composed chiefly of single rooms, intended specially for noisy and destructive patients.

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view as ourselves. He describes an old woman, noisy, frightened, and excited, whom he found in the outskirts of the district; and he makes this remark, "What with us would have required a room, a chair, and a jacket, does not require them here, owing to the natural state of affairs."

Meningitis cerebro-spinalis epidemica intermittens.—The most interesting point in this paper is the comparison by Dr. Meschede of the mental symptoms produced in this disease, with those presented in general paralysis. The author had an opportunity of investigating this species of meningitis during the epidemic which prevailed in West Prussia, in 1865. The post-mortem appearances exhibited by the disease were deposits of purulent exudation upon and beneath the cerebral membranes. These were found both on the membranes covering the brain, and also on those lining the ventricles, and covering the spinal cord. There was also found, on microscopical examination, nucleus and cell proliferation of the vessels of the pia mater, and their prolongations into the sulci, but without morbid alteration of the nerve cells. The case which is the special subject of the paper, was one in which the disease ran a slower course than usual, and assumed an intermittent type. During three months, which it continued, the mental capacity was preserved in complete integrity as far as its essential constitution was concerned. During intermissions the consciousness was perfectly clear, the judgment correct, the association of ideas rational, the temper neither melancholic nor exalted, and no trace of grandiose delusion. The febrile paroxysms were characterised by an abnormal excitability from external stimuli, without any symptom of derangement of the internal organisation of the mental organ. In another case, observed by Meschede, and published in No. 31 of the "Deutsche Klinik," the meningitis attacked an imbecile of a restless and fretful temper, who was subject at irregular intervals to attacks of maniacal excitement and confusion. The post-mortem appearances showed the characteristic purulent meningitis extending down into the sulci; but the symptoms during life were quite free from emotional excitement, and consisted almost entirely of a gradually increasing somnolence, ending in coma.

Modern Researches in Physiological Psychology.—Dr. Wundt reviews the more recent works which have influenced educated opinion in this department, and shows a preference for such as are best represented in this country by Professor Bain. Considerable space is devoted to the discussion of the measurements of time occupied by physiological and psychological processes. The investigations of Hirsch, de Jaager, Mach, and others are specially alluded to; but the author does not, more than previous writers, lead us further than the threshold of the subject.

Insanity produced by Embolism in the Brain, with Mitral incompetence in the Heart.—In this case the smaller vessels supplying the upper surface of the cerebral hemispheres were occluded by emboli, which are

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believed by Dr. Joffe, who reports the case, to have been set loose from vegetations upon the mitral valve. The patient was admitted to the Vienna district asylum in May, 1865, and died in April of the following year. She was 46 years of age when admitted, a day labourer, and a native of Bohemia, and was in a state of deep mental depression. The countenance expressed deep anxiety; the head was held fixedly in a constrained position, for no assignable reason; and she complained of a sense of fullness of the head. She was slow, and slightly paralytic in movement; both pupils were equally contracted. On auscultation a systolic murmur was heard over the left ventricle, and the second sound was strengthened in the pulmonary artery. Sensibility was extraordinarily altered in the skin. No amount of irritation produced pain; but she could hold objects firmly in her hand, and could tell, if any one touched her, where she was touched. Taste and smell were quite deadened.

Her condition underwent considerable variation; improvement repeatedly manifested itself, but as frequently was suddenly terminated by the appearance of deep depression. After one of these attacks she exhibited delusions as to the existence of parts of her body, believed that she had no blood, no stomach, &c. After death the lesion already mentioned was found, and is believed by Dr. Joffe to account for the symptoms.

Injecting the cerebral vessels in living animals.—Prof. Leidesdorf and Dr. S. Stricker detail the results of some experiments made upon domestic fowls by injecting foreign substances into the carotids. By injecting a small quantity of water, containing potato starch, violent convulsions were rapidly produced, and the creatures died after a few violent paroxysms. Examination of the brain showed that the granules only in very rare instances reached the capillaries, being stopped in the smaller arteries where they completely arrested the flow of blood. The greater number were found in the cerebral hemisphere of the operated side, but some also reached the other side, and some were even found in the basilar artery and its delicate branches.

Some fowls into whose carotids 60 cubic centimetres of water were injected, under a pressure of three atmospheres, fell into a state of apparent intoxication, from which they recovered after from half-an-hour to an hour, while others who were subjected to the same experiment died. A constant result of the injection of water was the diminution of the frequency of the respiration to a half, or even to a third. A practical inference which the authors draw from their experiments is that water, or, at least, very diluted blood, may be substituted for good blood in the brain for some time without very injurious effect; and where there is imminently dangerous intoxication, the blood may be largely diluted with water when other remedies cannot be applied.

Clitoridectomy, as a remedy against Hysteria, Epilepsy, and Mental Derangement consequent on Masturbation.—Dr. Ullersperger reviews the correspondence between Dr. West and Mr. Baker Brown, which

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was published in the "Lancet" in 1866, and comes to the conclusion that the operation is justifiable only in very exceptional cases, where there is strong reason to anticipate a good result and when every other remedy has been tried. Two cases, however, are mentioned in an editorial note which follows the paper, in which Professor Gustav Braun, of Vienna, had performed the operation and with the best results.

The Weight of the Brain.—Dr. Meynert has made an elaborate investigation of the weight of the brain in 157 cases in the Vienna asylum. He makes the following deductions. 1. The ratio between the average weight in males and in females respectively is as 100 : 90.32. At the ages at which the brain attains its greatest weight the difference is much larger. 2. The highest weight in males is reached in the fourth decade, and in females it is the fifth decade. 3. The difference in weight between the sexes is much greater than the difference between the weights in the same sex before and after the period of full development—that is, between the weight at 20 years of age and 69. This is true, also, of the several parts of the brain—convolutions, central ganglia and medulla, and cerebellum. 4. In males before old age there is proportionally more central stem (ganglia medulla, &c.), and less of the convolutions (Hirnmantel) than in females. 5. The brains of the insane exhibit proportionally more cerebellum than those of the sane, which probably depends on the greater diminution of other parts of the brain in connection with the insanity. 6. The difference according to age refers less to the convolutions than to the cerebellum and central stem. 7. The absolute highest weight of the convolutions appears to be attained in the third decade, and certainly it is proportionably highest then. 8. The increase of the collective weight after the third decade is connected chiefly with increased weight of cerebellum, the absolute weight of which organ corresponds closely with the age. 9. The convolutions begin to decrease earlier in women than in men. 10. The difference of sex shows itself more especially in the proportion of convolutions than of the entire brain.

The proportional weights found in different forms of insanity may be seen in the following table. The weight in cases of primary insanity is taken at 1000, and the numbers opposite the other forms represent the proportional average decrease corresponding to each :—

	Males.	Females.
Primary insanity	1000.000	1000.000
Transitory forms	12.048	34.566
Simple dementia	39.701	105.547
Paralytic dementia	61.793	108.200
Alcoholism	60.167	
Epilepsy	52.600	

In connection with the forms of insanity, Meynert found that the greatest loss of weight in the convolutions of both males and females

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occurred in paralytic dementia, and also a great loss of weight in the central stem among all other forms of insanity among males. The greatest loss of weight in the cerebellum was found in epileptics. The author also comes to the following conclusions:—Primary depressed forms are apparently connected with a greater weight of brain than primary excited forms. The successive stages of insanity are associated with corresponding decreasing weight of brain. The smallest collective weight of brain is found in paralytic dementia, the next smallest in alcoholism. Depressed forms of insanity appear to be especially connected with decrease in the central stem, and excited forms with decrease in the convolutions.

[The other papers in the Vierteljahrschrift are all to be continued in following numbers. They will be noticed when complete.]

(To be continued.)

II. American Psychological Literature.

By S. W. D. Williams, M.D., L.R.C.P. Lond., Assistant Medical Officer, Sussex Lunatic Asylum, Haywards Heath.

American Journal of Insanity, Volume XXIII., July, 1866, *to April,* 1867.

July, 1866, No. 1.—"Intemperance and Insanity," by W. S. Chipley, M.D.; "The Care of the Chronic Insane Poor of the State of New York," by George Cook, M.D.; Proceedings of the Association.—Summary: "The Care of the Chronic Insane of the State of New York;" "Hudson River Hospital for the Insane;" "Acknowledgment;" "State Hospital for the Insane in Connecticut."

October, 1866, No. 2.—"The Insanity of Women produced by Desertion or Seduction," by Dr. I. Ray; "The Mental Operations in Health and Disease," translated by J. H. Worthington, M.D.; "Mount Hope Institution—Trial for Conspiracy," by W. H. Stokes, M.D.—Bibliographical: "Traité des Maladies Mentales, Pathologie et Thérapeutique," par W. Griesinger; "Etude Médico-Lègale sur la Simulation de la Folie," par le Docteur Armand Laurent.

January, 1867, No. 3.—"Decisions of English Courts in the Law of Lunacy;" "On Moral Insanity," by Dr. Jules Falret.—Bibliographical: "Review of recent Works on Idiocy;" "Review of recent Works on Mental Disease;" "Lectures on Mental Diseases," W. H. O. Sankey, M.D., London, &c., &c.; "Traité des Maladies Mentales," par W. Griesinger, M.D., &c., &c.; "Review of American Reports."—Summary: "Resignation of Dr. Ray;" "Hudson River State Hospital for the Insane;" "State Asylum for the Insane,

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