among women. Of Dr. Bird's six cases, not one was in a woman. The tendency to it is greater in men; in whom, indeed, the mental disorder, with its associated depraved bodily condition, is much more frequent than in women. Paralytic-dementia, in which there is a particular proneness to corruption of the blood, is represented by all writers as much more prevalent among men. Of such patients at Illenau, 10 to 15 per cent. are male, and but 3 per cent. female.

The swelling of the ear, according to Thore, is more frequent between the thirtieth and fortieth year. It is not a peculiarity of old cases: Dr. Fischer has noticed it in a boy of eighteen, and in a woman of sixty-four.

Rupp states that he has met with this condition of the external ear in soldiers and other persons not mentally disordered. This is a most interesting point for further enquiry. A case, reported by Dr. Jessen, occurred in the hospital practice of Langenbeck. It was that of a girl between ten and twelve years of age, belonging to the lowest class, and very ignorant and wild. The swelling occupied the left ear, quite obstructed the meatus, and, according to the doubtful statement of the patient, entirely deprived her of hearing on that side. A blow on the ear was assigned as the cause. Langenbeck made a long incision, which he kept open for two weeks by means of lint, lightly bandaging the ear for support. The wound healed favourably, and the shape of the ear was restored with its faculty perfect. On making the incision coagulated blood escaped; the walls of the cavity appeared smooth, and a new cartilage had formed. There was no mental disorder in this girl.

A second case occurred to Langenbeck, in a man thirty years old, who had delirium tremens, and was therefore transferred to an asylum for treatment.

*To be continued.*

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THE LATE MRS. CUMMING.—Court of Chancery, February 10th. In a creditor's suit, to ascertain whether the cost of lunacy should be admitted to claim, *pari passu*, with other debts due from the estate, or on the surplus only. Lord Justice KNIGHT BRUCE remarked, "I may say for myself, that from my judicial recollection of the facts of this case, from the condition of Mrs. Cumming, her acts, and her association with some persons; I am most clearly of opinion that *there never was a lady who more needed protection*, and that the proceedings in lunacy were proper. That the lady required some protection is clear. I do not say that it was right, that she should be taken as she was to a lunatic asylum, or that more than a very limited restricted and guarded interference should have been made, but being of opinion that some proceedings were proper, I cannot but say that these expenses were incurred for the *benefit of the lunatic*, and that there is both reason and authority for declaring, as I now do, that they were so." Lord Justice TURNER concurred.

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*Appointments.*

Mr. W. Chas. Hills to be Assistant Medical Officer to the Kent County Asylum, *vice* Henry Parfitt, M.R. resigned.

Mr. Henry Jacobs, M.R.C.S., to be Apothecary to the Female Department at the Middlesex Asylum, Colney Hatch.

Mr. Alfred M. Jeaffreson, to be Steward of Finances to Bethlem Hospital, *vice* Mr. E. R. Adams, resigned.

*Obituary.*

On the 12th instant, at College Gardens, Gloucester, the Rev. Thomas Evans, D.D., for upwards of twenty years Chaplain to the Gloucestershire General Lunatic Asylum.

*New Members of the Association of Medical Officers of Hospitals for the Insane.*

Campbell, Dr. Donald C., Medical Superintendent to the Essex County Asylum.

Shapter, Dr. Thomas, Physician to the St. Thomas's Lunatic Hospital, Exeter.

Kirkman. Mr. William P., Assistant Medical Officer to the Devon County Lunatic Asylum.

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*Commissioners in Lunacy.*—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY will, on and after Monday the 23rd of January instant, be at No. 19, WHITEHALL PLACE.

R. W. S. LUTWIDGE, *Secretary.*
17th January, 1854.

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*All communications for the forthcoming Number should be addressed to the Editor,* DR. BUCKNILL, *Devon County Lunatic Asylum, near Exeter, before the 15th day of March next.*

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