with fatty infiltration and degeneration. The liver was fatty and enlarged. The gall-bladder distended with bile and a large number of small gall-stones. Both kidneys were sclerotic, with adherent capsules.

The salient features of this interesting case are:

(1) The presence of well-marked Lilliputian hallucinations unaccompanied by micropsia and apart from hypnagogic hallucinations.

(2) The disappearance of these and the substitution of a "giant" hallucination.

(3) The association of these hallucinations with rheumatoid arthritis, chronic nephritis and bronchitis with a considerable degree of conjunctivitis.

(4) The resemblance to an alcoholic psychosis, although alcohol could be excluded.

The most interesting feature of this case is certainly the substitution of a "giant" for the previously existing Lilliputians. This appearance of the "giant" coincided with a change for the worse in the patient's condition, and may possibly constitute a species of "after image" to the Lilliputians.

I am very much indebted to Dr. M. A. Archdale for permission to publish this case.

Recent Medico-Legal Cases.

[The Editors request that members will oblige by sending full newspaper reports of all cases of interest as published by the local press at the time of the assizes.]

Rex *v.* Charles Edmund Seymour.

This case was tried at the Central Criminal Court, before Mr. Justice Roche, on October 13th. The prisoner pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting a Mrs. Bles, with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The facts were that Mrs. Bles was walking in Hyde Park, on September 18th, when the prisoner, who was a stranger, suddenly attacked her, and wounded her with a knife. A police constable pursued and overtook the prisoner, who turned upon him and inflicted three wounds. Mrs. Bles was carrying a bag containing £4, and this had disappeared, but whether the prisoner had taken it was uncertain. This point is of importance, in view of the plea of epilepsy which was set up. For, apart from robbery, there was no apparent motive for the crime.

There was evidence that the prisoner, who is 27 years of age, had suffered from epilepsy since youth. He had been under treatment,

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off and on, for some years, in a hospital, but would not stay there. Dr. Norwood East, medical officer of Brixton Prison, was quite clear that the prisoner was a genuine epileptic, and stated that the disease would render him very impulsive. He did not, however, think that the offence was committed in a state of epileptic mania or of epileptic automatism.

In the face of this evidence, there was, in the existing state of the law, no alternative to giving the man a determinate sentence of imprisonment. But the judge took the reasonable view that the prisoner's epilepsy was no cause for giving him a short term. And he sentenced the prisoner to three years' penal servitude, with a view to the protection of the public, pointing out that he would be treated in accordance with his state of health. This is not the prisoner's first conviction. And a system which, unless he can be certified as insane, releases an epileptic with criminal propensities at the expiration of a determinate sentence of detention appears to us entirely indefensible.

Mr. Justice Roche further suggested that the question of sterilizing such persons, in order to prevent them from propagating their species and so "breeding from the worst stock," should be seriously considered. Without expressing any opinion as to the feasibility and desirability of this course, it appears to us significant that a judge, in his official capacity, should advocate it.

Occasional Notes.

The Administration of Public Mental Hospitals in England and Wales.

THE report of the Committee appointed in December, 1921, by the Minister of Health "to investigate and report on the charges made by Dr. Lomax in his book (*The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor*) and to make recommendations as to any medical or administrative improvements, etc.," was published in August of this year. It is a document of considerable interest and has been widely read and discussed, especially by governing bodies of the public mental hospitals.

Our views on Dr. Lomax's book were briefly indicated in an "Occasional Note" (*vide* vol. lxviii, p. 171), and they are fully supported by the findings of this Committee. We are not surprised that the cult which has taken Dr. Lomax for its high priest is decidedly not pleased with the conclusions arrived at. Its devotees continue unabatedly to inveigh that creation of their imagination, "the system," which is as illusory as the facts upon which they hold up the mental nurses to opprobrium. However, to those members of the public, especially

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