ing in the mesentery, causing internal strangulation of the ileum and complete obstruction. The ileum from the ileo-cœcal valve to two feet above it was quite black and almost gangrenous; walls much thickened, and lumen almost obliterated. The small intestine above was only slightly distended with gas, whilst the large intestine contained hard fæces. The margin of the opening in the mesentery formed a firm constricting band around the loop of the bowel. There were no symptoms of general peritonitis.

Remarks.—The above affords a very good example of a large number of cases occurring in asylums where the case has to be diagnosed and treated entirely upon objective symptoms, and more especially in those cases of dementia where the symptoms of inflammatory disease differ so widely from those occurring in patients with a healthy nervous system. The only symptom in this case was the vomiting, and this, in view of the presence of malignant disease of long standing, was ascribed to the stomach. Had this case occurred in ordinary practice, the surgeon would probably have been assisted by his patient in his diagnosis, and the symptoms might possibly have been relieved by abdominal section, as the constricted bowel was not far from the middle line.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

The Annual Meeting.

No less successful than its predecessors, the annual meeting of 1889 will be remembered as one at which the question of a separate building for curable cases of insanity formed the subject of an interesting and useful debate. The theme chosen by the President for his address was eminently appropriate, having been "in the air" for some months, and calling for the public expression of opinion on the part of members of the Association. Nothing could have been better calculated to secure this end than the able and lucid address of Dr. Hayes Newington, which deserves, and will no doubt receive, careful reading by those who were not present at the meeting. The discussion which followed will be found very fully reported in this number of the Journal. The proposals made by the President are, it is important to bear in mind, widely different from those which have been promulgated of late as likely to be adopted by the London County Council. The former may succeed, the latter

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fail. A medical County Councillor, who listened to the discourse, informed us that he was thankful to the President for observations which are by no means calculated to encourage the crude notions and wild hopes recently created, and still current, in regard to the brilliant results likely to be obtained by the treatment of the insane in a sort of general hospital, having the benefit of the services of non-alienist physicians, including gynæcologists, some of whom are in danger of doing more harm than good by forgetting, as Wilson Fox once said, that "woman is not all womb." What Dr. Newington proposes is altogether different, namely, an auxiliary institution in the neighbourhood of our large asylums, but not within sight, in which curable cases should be treated for a limited period. The establishment of curable and incurable asylums is, of course, nothing new, and in Germany has been adopted with doubtful success; but the plan, as proposed by Dr. Newington, is worked out in a more definite and detailed manner than has hitherto been elaborated.

The New Lunacy Act.

The Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill, the passing of which even this year was at one time doubtful, received the Royal assent at the close of the Session, and became an Act of Parliament—to come into force May, 1890—which for good or for evil, probably both, will undoubtedly have far-reaching effects. The reference of the Bill to the Standing Committee on Law was the means of securing a calmer consideration of certain objectionable features, with the result that in some instances they were somewhat modified or entirely withdrawn. The essential principle of the Bill remained, however, unchanged. The most important concession had reference to the monstrous restrictions placed upon the admission of Single Patients into the houses of medical men, these restrictions being removed. The Medico-Psychological Association has, through its Parliamentary Committee, opposed from first to last the clause introducing these restrictions, which originally went so far as to forbid medical men to have insane patients of any description whatever in their houses. It remains to be seen how far medical men will avail themselves of the permission to have two patients in the house subject to the sanction of the Commissioners in Lunacy. As there are to be no fresh licenses for Private Asylums granted, there may in the future

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