by the national funds. The charge for lunatics he deems to have special claims.

"The charge of lunatic paupers is," he says, "like that of the medical relief, a well ascertained and clearly defined charge. Hence their would be no room for jobbing or misapplication of the public grant. The expenditure might be placed under direct control and supervision either of the Lunacy Board or the Board of Supervision; and the Board would of course certify the expenditure before Government was called on to pay."

We believe that greater difficulties beset this question than are indicated or perhaps perceived by the author. We have, however, to thank him for the fair and intelligent manner in which he has treated this and the other subjects which he has reviewed; and we would recommend those interested in the reform of our Poor Laws to refer to his book, as conveying in clear language a history of that department of legislation in Scotland, and a calm view of its results.

Studies on Functional Nervous Disorders. By C. HANDFIELD JONES, M.B. Cantab., F.R.S.

(Concluded from page 277.)

In the same chapter are brought forward numerous instances of delirium produced by toxic agents. Among these is a striking case of mania in a patient—the subject of syphilis—in whom, at an apparently hopeless stage, a cure was effected by iodide of potassium; and there are several cases of delirium in rheumatic fever, in connection with which the essentially neurotic character of this affection is affirmed. Other varieties of delirium considered are febrile and postfebrile, epileptic, traumatic, and puerperal; in the last, a nutritive or even stimulant treatment is decidedly recommended. The treatment of delirium is fully considered; blood-letting, general or local, is admitted to have value in certain cases; the cold douche, combined with the warm bath, is reported as exceedingly well worth trial; tartar emetic, with opium, is affirmed to be useful, but as contra-indicated by a weak heart; the use of hydrocyanic acid has a similar caution attached to its recommendation.

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Space is left for only some few words on the special affections to which so much of Dr. Jones's work is devoted, along with a few quotations. Delirium tremens is treated fully; that debilitated nerve tissue is an important element in it, is well insisted on; its tendency to end spontaneously in a favourable way (which cannot, however, in practice be made the only guide to treatment), its varying nature in varying cases, and the drugs that control it (opium, digitalis when the circulation is weak, cannabis Indica, cayenne pepper, &c.), along with the advantage of bloodletting in a few cases, and the necessity for nutriment in all, are the main points considered. Under the head of "Tetanus," the alleged hopefulness of treatment, and, at the same time, needlessness of looking for a panacea, since individual patients are found in states so different, may be noticed. Under the head of "Epilepsy," this affection is most usefully considered in all its relations—to vertigo, faintings, visceral auras, delirium, &c.; a long list of possible causes is given, among which may be noticed latent rheumatism and latent syphilis, as not generally looked for; and as regards treatment, while almost no reliance is to be placed on purgatives, and little on counter-irritation or the obstruction of the aura, sedatives are to be mainly relied on, and alternation of belladonna with bromide of potassium (extending over a period of years) is especially to be tried. Trephining, too, is brought forward as having been successful in numerous cases.

Many important chapters have been added to this part of the work; such are those which treat of Heatstroke, Spinal Irritation, Hypochondriasis, Graves' Disease (the three leading features—proptosis, goitre, and cardiac weakness), and Drowsiness. On all these heads the experience recorded is of the most valuable description; such growth of the book in getting into a second edition will be most welcome to all who place store by accurate records of skilfully treated cases in these various departments.

A very welcome passage, showing the relations among diseases of that most seemingly isolated affection—heatstroke, may be quoted at length:—

"I now proceed to what may be termed the Associated Pathology of Heat Stroke; *i. e.* to the affinities which the disorder manifests to others, which differ from it considerably in outside show. Sir H. Holland thinks that we have not yet drawn sufficiently from this source of knowledge. 'It is probable,' he continues, 'that we may

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hereafter learn from it the actual identity of many diseases hitherto placed asunder by distinctions which have foundation only in subordinate symptoms, thereby disguising from us what is most important both in pathology and practice.' Dr. Pirrie, in his recent excellent work on 'Hay Asthma,' has well stated and supported the view that many cases which are often imagined to be dependent on odorous emanations, are really the results solely of increased temperature, and he proposes for such the name of 'Summer Fever.' I am convinced that he is right. During three or four years successively I have suffered in my own person with a more or less severe catarrhal fever, which commences about the middle of July, and lasts about a month. The symptoms are great debility and prostration, anorexia, inability for brain work, or almost any other, cutaneous hyperæsthesia, so that I shrink from the summer breeze as too chilling, and pretty severe nasal and pharyngeal catarrh, with expectoration of heavy, ill-looking mucopus. I have not the least asthmatic tendency, nor am I the least intolerant of hay or other odorous substances. On one occasion, after eighteen or twenty days of the catarrhal symptoms, I got smart rigors, followed by pyrexia and sweating, with very great prostration. Tonics are beneficial, and all such means as recreate nerve power. I have no doubt of the intimate connection of the disorder with atmospheric heat, acting on a not over robust system. My friend, Dr. Palmer, learned from an intelligent practitioner whom he met in Yorkshire this year, that he often had cases of slight sunstroke in children, in whom, after a semicomatose condition, with a feeble pulse and cool skin, had lasted for some hours, reaction usually followed, and was succeeded frequently by catarrhal symptoms, or sore throat, &c. Two or three years ago an elderly lady, an incurable bronchitic, was returning to her home in London on a very hot day, and sat, during a journey of more than 100 miles, in a first-class carriage, exposed to the heat of the sun's rays, which distressed her a good deal. When she reached her house she was in a state of fever, and three days later, when I was called to attend her, in a dangerous condition. The usual moderate bronchial catarrh was increased to great intensity; she suffered very great dyspnœa, and was very prostrate. So great was the nerve prostration, that when she recovered she told me that she had been quite unconscious of all that had been going on around her, at least she remembered nothing about it; moreover, for weeks after she had great difficulty in writing; she could not recollect the right words, nor remember to spell them correctly. In this instance we have nerve-paresis, and inflammatory congestion as result of heat, and it seems only reasonable to believe that the latter was dependent on the former. I have already alluded to the probability that most cases of *summer diarrhœa* are produced in the same way."

The book concludes with a chapter devoted to "Remedies."

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The definiteness with which the effect of drugs on any one of the bodily systems can be stated, depends on the definiteness to our senses of the active display of that system. Whether, and even in what way, a medicine affects the circulatory, respiratory, and digestive systems, may be more or less got at from the pulse, the breathing, the dejections; on the other hand, the question—whether, and in what way, a drug affects the nervous system, is a far more difficult one to answer,—one, in fact, which cannot be answered as yet. It follows from this that all general statements of the action of any neurotic drug in the present state of our knowledge must be not only superfluous but injurious, viz., to those who do not see the deception. A certain sense of disappointment must, therefore, be confessed to when such general statements are found hazarded in this chapter, especially as they occur amidst so much that is excellent in the way of stating special effects, and of noting avowed hypotheses as regards mode of action. That quinine in ague arrests the paroxysms "by virtue of its toning influence" on the nerve system,—that it either "tones and excites" vasomotor nerves, or renders sensory nerves "paralysed by over-stimulation,"—that arsenic at one time acts "as a tissue-irritant," at another as "a nervine tonic," are some indefinite general expressions of the kind meant.

Otherwise, the lists of affections in which quinine and arsenic are found useful, are most valuable; the most safe general fact with regard to the latter seems to be its contractive action on the blood-vessels, especially of the skin and uterus. The double action of Digitalis, affirmed by Dr. Jones at a comparatively early date, and now become classical, is fully set forth and illustrated; as also is that of opium, to which alcohol is closely assimilated. The passage treating of Digitalis will be read with interest:—

"Digitalis has long been employed and ranked as a depressant agent, and that it may be used as such very effectively there is no doubt. Latterly, however, various observers have satisfied themselves that it may, under certain circumstances, produce diametrically opposite effects, acting, in fact, as a powerful cardiac toner or stimulator. I stated my belief of this in 1859, v. 'Brit. Med. Journ.,' December 17th, and since then evidence has accumulated considerably, proving that such is the case. Winogradoff and Traube show, by exact experiment, that digitalis, if not given in excess, does not diminish, but, according to Traube, actually increases the pressure in the arteries. The latter states that digitalis acts both on the regulating and motor nerves of the heart (the vagi and sympathetic cardiac nerves), and that the

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degree of pressure in the aortic system is the conjoint result of these two factors. The first action of digitalis on each is to excite, and the second to paralyse. If, then, the motor are more stimulated than the regulating nerves, the arterial pressure will be increased, and so it will be if the regulating are enfeebled while the motor are excited. On the contrary, the arterial pressure diminishes when the regulating nerves are more strongly excited than the motor. In a dog, after division of the vagi, the pressure rose after injection of digitalis from 124 to 260, declining in ten minutes to 176 millim. Repetition of the injection speedily arrested the heart's action. There seems to be a remarkable correspondence between these observations and those of Hufschmidt and Moleschott as to the effect of irritation of the medulla oblongata and spinal cord on the frequency of the pulse, v. p. 10. In addition to the results quoted there, it may be mentioned that they found irritation of the medulla oblongata was conducted to the heart through the pneumogastric, and not through the sympathetic nerves, while irritation of the spinal cord was transmitted to the heart through both sets of nerves. From the above evidence there seems good ground to conclude (1) that digitalis in the milder degrees of its action has a stimulating influence upon the heart, acting through the medulla oblongata and spinal cord or the cardiac nerves proceeding from them; (2) that its stronger action has the reverse effect, like galvanism or mechanical irritation arresting the heart's movements."

In concluding this notice, it is hardly needful to add an earnest recommendation of this work to every physician, and especially to every alienist. In a department where hasty theory is rife, and good clinical observations are few and far between, it presents itself conspicuously as avoiding the former, and embodying abundantly the latter. Not only ample instruction to those interested, but also the encouragement which the words of an enthusiastic observer always bring to those of like sympathies with himself, may be drawn constantly from these pages. Rare skill in the application of theory often strikes us as we read; while we are constantly accompanied by the more impressive, if less brilliant, virtue of accurate truth to nature in picturing so long a series of her morbid phenomena. R. P. N.

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

NOTE.—*The length of the Report of the Proceedings at the Annual Meeting compels us to omit the usual Quarterly Report on the Progress of Psychological Medicine.*

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