£10 to £12 a year. After ten years' service a retiring allowance is granted to those officers and servants who may have to retire from sickness; but, otherwise, the period of service required to entitle one to a retiring pension, of half their former emoluments, is 30 years. At the time of my visit there were altogether in the house 30 general paralytics and 20 epileptics. About one-fourth of the cases admitted suffer from insanity attributable to alcoholic excess—the principal liquor drunk being *eau-de-vie.* They have about 40 deaths and 40 recoveries, on an average, each year. The pecuniary remuneration of the *Médecin-en-Chef* and *Médecin-Adjoint,* is, for the former, 7,000fr., and, for the latter, 1,800fr. per annum. Two medical visits are made daily. About 1,200 francs are annually expended in drugs, the chief of which in use were—Choral, Opium, and Quinine. As adjuvants to drugs in the treatment of mental diseases, the physicians of this asylum consider there are none better than exercise in the open air, and the hydro-therapeutic treatment.

(To be continued.)

CLINICAL NOTES AND CASES.

A Case of Traumatic Insanity cured by Trephining. By C. Holland Skae, M.D., Medical Superintendent, Ayr District Asylum.

(Read at the Quarterly Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association at Edinburgh, November 27, 1873.)

J. McB., æt. 21 years. Admitted into the asylum 25th November, 1869. Married, with small family; no member of his family known to have been insane before; light hair, eyes and complexion.

His wife gave reporter the following information regarding the history of her husband's illness:—

Four years previous to admission, while working in a coal-pit, he was felled to the ground by a huge mass of falling coal, which struck him on the head about three inches above the left extremity of the left eyelid, causing fracture of the skull at that point. He lay insensible for four days after the accident, when he gradually recovered consciousness, and a few weeks afterwards resumed work in the pit.

Not many weeks after doing so, however, his wife and friends began to notice an alteration in his habits and nature,

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which became more and more marked and obtrusive as time progressed. He had formerly been a very cheerful, rather merry, sociable, and very goodnatured man—what his fellow-workers would have called a "neighbourly chiel"—and at all times, previous to the accident, was kind and loveable to his wife and children, with whom he delighted to pass his evenings in sober enjoyment.

About this time, however, he began to evince a different spirit and nature altogether; he became irritable and moody; at work he would separate himself from his fellow-workers, and when spoken to by them would barely return a civil answer; sometimes he was quite taciturn—at home, of course, the change was still more striking. He would return home cross, and sit moping over the fire all evening; he would rudely repulse his wife's affectionate efforts to rouse him out of his unhappy humour, and "shut her up" with some snappish expression; if his children ran to meet him on his return from work, as was their wont, the "envied kiss to share," he would push them impatiently aside; altogether his conduct was bearish, disappointing, and ill-natured. This unhappy state of matters got worse and worse; he often got excited and used threatening and violent language to his wife, whom he until lately loved so well, but whose presence now seemed only to excite angry and dangerous feelings; to his children and neighbours he conducted himself in the same manner. Eventually he became acutely maniacal; attempted to take his wife's life; assaulted every one who approached him; and even attempted suicide. He then had a succession of epileptic fits about a week before being brought to the asylum.

When admitted, the reporter on entering the receiving room found him handcuffed and sulking in a corner; and when he approached him and spoke to him, he turned his face towards the wall, and humped up his shoulders, much in the same sort of fashion as a child does when one who has offended him advances with overtures of reconciliation. He was taciturn, and had a very morose and ill-natured expression. He had a well marked depression, with an ugly cicatrix as previously stated, about three inches above the left extremity of the left eye-lid, which latter slightly drooped, giving him a half-sleepy, half-stupid look. He was about two months in the house before the operation was performed, and during that time he slightly improved; that is, he became conversable to a limited extent, only with certain persons, but

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his conduct generally was that of a man whose mind was monopolised by some unhappy thoughts to the exclusion of all others, which tyrranised over his mind and regulated his actions and behaviour; he was averse to doing anything at all, either in the way of work or joining in amusements. He was suspicious of those about him, and had the expression of one labouring under suspicions. He laboured under a fixed delusion regarding his wife's and friends' conduct towards him, declaring that he was the victim of a conspiracy originated by his wife, and joined in by her friends, to deprive him of his liberty and independence; and when interrogated on the subject, he always expressed himself in bitter and resentful terms

He continued much in the same way up to the beginning of 1870, when he underwent the operation of trephining, which was skilfully and successfully performed by his former medical adviser, Dr. Clarke Wilson, of Ayr.

A depression was distinctly visible at the point where he had sustained the blow, and on the finger being applied to the place it was as distinctly felt, and on the overlying portion of scalp being dissected off, it was still more evident both to the eye and to the touch.

The depressed portion of bone was removed, and the patient, after a week or two in bed, was moving about again when a gradual improvement week by week took place. His wife visited him constantly, and on each visit expressed herself pleased with the additional improvement, and extra step towards his former natural and healthy condition; indeed, he very soon became a different person altogether; all his old affection for his wife revived in full force. He became a cheerful, active, lively fellow, never satisfied if he was not doing something. He made friends with the attendants and amongst the patients, and not very long after he was trephined he was discharged sane.

He has ever since supported his wife and family, and has regularly paid visits, at about six months' intervals, to the asylum, generally passing the whole day at it.

The reporter saw him on each occasion, and talked for some time with him, and felt satisfied that he was quite sane, and has satisfied himself by careful inquiry that he has continued in a perfectly sound state of mind since his discharge from the asylum. The operation was performed in February, 1869, and reporter last saw the subject of it in the spring of 1873.

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