work is executed with promptitude. As to its efficiency, the names of the gentlemen undertaking the actual research work is sufficient guarantee.

The Association, which already has a long list of subscribers, has proved of great service to private practitioners, and in some instances also to medical men connected with asylums for the insane. In the latter direction, however, there is still, in our opinion, a considerable sphere of usefulness open to it. Even in such of our asylums which may be said to be well equipped in respect of laboratories, we apprehend that certain researches (*e.g.*, bacteriological, analytical) would scarcely be undertaken with full confidence. *A fortiori*, the Association should prove of considerable service to all such institutions as are unprovided with the necessary facilities.

Although nerve-tissues are not the only tissues of interest to asylum workers, around them our chief interest naturally centres; and we therefore are concerned to ascertain in what respect and how far the Association is prepared to meet our special needs. In the "Handbook" it is very properly pointed out that portions of brain and spinal cord sent up for examination should be placed in a chrome solution. On inquiry we learn that in certain cases in which tissues have been sent up from asylums a proper examination has been rendered impossible by faulty preliminary treatment. The Association is in a position at the present time to conduct the examination of nerve-tissues after the methods commonly followed, and, we are able to add, is prepared to make the necessary arrangements for examination according to the special methods now available, in proportion to the demands which may be made upon it by workers in neurology.

We commend the Clinical Research Association to the notice of asylum physicians, and would refer for details to the "Handbook" already mentioned.

NOTE ON A HEAVY BRAIN.

In the "Lancet" for July 20th, 1895, Dr. Cowie Grant reports a case of epilepsy which came to an autopsy, and in which the brain was found of unusual weight. The patient was a male, æt. 43. There was a history of epilepsy of seven years' duration. Prior to this he had been a very intelligent man, and fairly strong, though he occasionally suffered from headaches. He now and then drank heavily. On admission to the asylum he was in a state of epileptic dementia. He died in the *status epilepticus*. The necropsy disclosed the following:—Circumference of head above eyebrows, 25½in. Skull bones of normal thickness. Dura thickened throughout, adherent to skull at several points. Falx cerebri ossified for a considerable part of its extent. Pia-arachnoid milky, and "as thick and tough as an ordinary dura mater, while its vessels were varicose and tortuous." Adherent at several parts, chiefly in the frontal region. Cleared of all membranes and freed from all fluid, the brain weighed 67 ozs. Gyri appeared normal. No pathological changes, whether macro- or microscopical, were found in the brain. There was "an enlargement" of both choroid plexus of the lateral ventricles, and a partial ossification of the left one. It may be added that the pia-arachnoid itself weighed 4 ozs.

HOLLOWAY SANATORIUM.

Report of Mr. Gully, Q.C., assisted by Dr. George H. Savage.

After reporting upon the whole circumstances in connection with the death of Mr. Thomas Weir, the document concludes as follows:—

"Two questions arise as to Weir's treatment.

1. Was the dry pack proper treatment?
2. Was it administered with proper care and precautions?

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.41.175.756 Published online by Cambridge University Press