of it furnished. The review department calls for commendation, as exhibiting "no small sign of vigour and ability" in the management of the Journal. "The number for April opens with a learned and excellent paper on 'The Physiology of Idiocy,' and Dr. D. Hack Tuke's essay on 'Artificial Insanity' has the quality of excellence." Upon the notes on the suicide of George V. Townley, it is remarked, "We regret to believe that this forms another sad instance in which the fair fame of our profession has been injured, and the good sense of the community outraged, by the effort to sustain the fatal doctrines of moral insanity." The suicide of the culprit "has been adduced as favouring the opinion of insanity at the time of the murder. This view is, however, vigorously, and we think successfully, combated by the editors."

Lastly, the review closes with a meed of approbation of this section of the Journal, wherein we attempt to represent to our readers the progress of psychological medicine, as far as practicable (as we are pleased to find it esteemed to be in America), "very complete and full of interest."

"As a whole, the 'Journal of Mental Science' well deserves to be the representative, in Great Britain, of a speciality which embraces the names of so many men eminent for philanthropy and learning."

II.—*English Psychological Literature.*

By S. W. D. Williams, M.D., St. And.

Some Statistics of Idiocy. By Arthur Mitchell, M.D., Deputy Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland.

('Edinburgh Med. Journal,' January, 1866.)

I. *Sex.*—The number of idiots and imbeciles examined by Dr. Mitchell was 1345. Of these the distribution of the sexes ran as follows:

	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.
Idiots	430	284	or	100	to 66·0
Imbeciles	321	310	or	100	to 96·5
Total idiots and imbeciles	751	594	or	100	to 79·2

"From this it appears that amongst idiots and imbeciles there are more males than females, there being only 79 of the latter to every 100 of the former. The reverse of this holds good, under every circumstance, amonst those labouring under the acquired, as opposed to the congenital, forms of insanity."

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Dr. Mitchell then divides these 1345 cases into two groups of 566 and 799, representing the idiots of the southern and northern counties of Scotland respectively, and is thus led to the following conclusions:

(1) That the excess of male over female idiots and imbeciles, taken together, is considerable and steady.

(2) That the excess of males is much greater among idiots than among imbeciles; in other words, that the excess of males is most marked in the graver forms of the disease.

(3) That even among imbeciles, when we deal with large numbers, it will probably be always found that males exceed females, though not to a great extent.

II. *Age.*—Dr. Mitchell then gives a series of tables, from which it appears that the ages of over 63 per cent. lay between ten and forty years, and that there are more between the decimal periods of twenty and thirty than any other. It also appears, however, that a larger number of idiots and imbeciles reach a more advanced age than is usually supposed, but that of the two classes imbeciles live longer than idiots.

"Thus, while we have only 11·3 per cent. of the idiots, we have not less than 26·6 per cent. of the imbeciles above fifty. It would appear, in short, that the lower the type of the mental defect the sooner comes virtual old age and death."

Contrasting the ages of idiots and imbeciles with those labouring under the acquired forms of insanity, Dr. Mitchell arrives at the conclusion that the proportions are as 47·4 per cent. of the former to 16·4 per cent. of the latter, above the age of thirty the proportions being reversed, the former being 52·5 per cent. to 83·5 of the latter.

III. *Comparative frequency of birth of Idiots in First and subsequent Pregnancies.*—Dr. Mitchell's conclusions on this head are, briefly, "that idiocy is more likely to occur among first and latest (seventh to eleventh) pregnancies than among others."

IV. *Age of Mother of Idiot at time of birth of Idiot.*—Dr. Mitchell's table under this heading shows that mothers under twenty-four years of age and above thirty-five are those more specially liable to have idiocy in their children.

V. *Size of Idiot's Head.*—During some months Dr. Mitchell measured the head of every adult idiot examined. The lowest age of those examined was twenty-one, the observations being confined to adults, in order to make a comparison with the ordinary sane population possible.

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The whole number of observations was 123, and the results are given in the subjoined table:

Circumference of Head in Inches.	Male Idiots.		Female Idiots.		Average Male Head in Scotland, From Hatters' Sales.
	Total.	Per Cent.	Total.	Per Cent.	Per cent.
From 16 to 17 inches	...	. .	...	...	...
„ 17 to 18 „	2	2·9	2	3·6	...
„ 18 to 19 „	2	2·9	4	7·3	...
„ 19 to 20 „	6	8·8	11	20·0	...
„ 20 to 21 „	17	25·0	19	34·5	6·2
„ 21 to 22 „	23	33·8	16	29·1	29·9
„ 22 to 23 „	12	17·7	3	5·5	55·5
„ 23 to 24 „	5	7·4	...	...	7·7
„ 24 to 25 „	1	1·5	...	...	0·7
Total . .	68	100·0	55	100·0	100·0

" (1) As regards *males*, the sum of the circumferences of the 68 was 1434¼ inches, which gives an average of 21$\frac{1}{16}$, corresponding to the hat the size of which is known as '6¾ small.' Most of the six heads which had a circumference above 23 inches were unmistakably hydrocephalic, and so I think were some of those between 22 and 23 inches.

" The average male head of Scotland, as learned from hatters' sales, is 'size 7$\frac{1}{8}$,' which is understood to represent a circumference of 22$\frac{3}{8}$, or rather less. This being the case, the average adult male idiot's head is more than an inch less in circumference than the average head of the ordinary adult male population.

" (2) As regards *females*, the sum of the circumferences of the 55 was 1129¼, which gives an average of 20$\frac{1}{8}$, corresponding to the hat the size of which is known as '6¼.' We do not know the average size of the ordinary adult female head, with which to compare this.

" The difference between the size of the heads of male and female idiots is, on the average, $\frac{9}{16}$ths of an inch, and this is not more than the difference between the heads of the two sexes in the ordinary sane population.

" The general conclusion to which these figures distinctly lead is this:—That the heads of idiots, as a rule, are abnormally small, but that a small head is not an essential in idiocy."

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