ference which exists between hypnotism and sleep seems to be the curative power of the former. But such curative power is altogether doubtful; and the so-called hypnotic cures, where they do exist, may possibly have to be ascribed to some emotional or psychical cause rather than to the artificial sleep. This influence is the most intricate problem of all relating to hypnotism and sleep, the limit of physiological inquiry being here drawn by the impossibility of ascertaining the physiological conditions of the brain when attention is directed to one point and when it is not. Professor Preyer found that a concentrated attention is the only *conditio sine quâ non* in order to hypnotise an individual. If the attention is to be the least distorted or distracted, hypnotism becomes impossible. If, by strong and sudden stimulation, attention be forcibly concentrated on one impression, as in fright, then cataplexy is the consequence in both man and in animals. If the will direct consciousness to a certain point without any excitement, it will in many cases lose its power, and hypnotism is the consequence—*abulia*. Possibly, this occurs because the oxygen of the arterial blood in the brain has so quickly been used up, that there is not enough left to keep the grey matter of the hemispheres awake. The nervous cells are separated from each other by inactive regions, and, as in natural sleep, only certain centres remain active—for example, the respiratory and other co-ordinating centres. Here, then, is the *terra incognita*, ready to be explored.

The following gentlemen took part in the discussion: Dr. Brown-Séquard, Mr. Braid (a son of the late Mr. James Braid), Dr. Bowditch, Dr. Glaister, Dr. Beard (New York), Dr. A. Gamgee, Dr. Harvey, Mr. Langley, Dr. Norris, Dr. Gerald Yeo, and Dr. Hack Tuke. Professor Preyer replied on the whole debate, and the discussion was brought to a close.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.

The July meeting, 1880, of this institution was held at Norwich, under the presidency of the DUKE OF NORFOLK, who, in his speech, observed that one might say that the instinct of self preservation made us find homes for the insane; whereas it was the divine angel of charity which urged us to procure homes for the idiot.

Dr. BATEMAN, the consulting physician, who endeavoured to remove certain misconceptions about idiocy, of frequent occurrence, held that one of the most fruitful causes of idiocy is the abuse, not the proper use, of alcoholic drinks. Dr. Bateman made an earnest appeal to his audience for their merciful aid.

Mr. MILLARD, the well known and estimable superintendent, wished that the number in the asylum (99) could be doubled. He pointed out that at the Hospital for Incurable Children in London, idiots were no longer received on account of their injurious influence on the other inmates. He said that in France there were 230 cretins and idiots to 100 lunatics, and not 60 to 100 as stated in the 1872 census; hence he inferred that in England there were many more idiots than the returns of the census showed. The asylum needed a large increase of annual subscriptions.

The MAYOR, the DEAN OF NORWICH, the SHERIFF, Mr. CADGE, and others addressed the meeting, which appears to have been very successful, £400 being promised on the spot.

"AFTER CARE."

A meeting of the "After Care" Association was held, on the 1st July, at the house of Dr. Bucknill, 39, Wimpole street. There were present Dr. Bucknill, President; Dr. D. Hack Tuke, Dr. Savage, Rev. H. G. Henderson, Mr. W. G. Marshall, Rev. H. Hawkins, Secretary; Lady Frederick Cavendish, Miss

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