disease. In conclusion, I would only add that this is another case which ought to prove how important it is that there should always be a post-mortem examination in all cases that die in asylums; for I presume that there are few who would not acknowledge that the chances of hereditary predisposition to this patient's offspring are considerably lessened by the fact that the case proved to be one of general paralysis, and not a case of acute mania rapidly terminating in death.

Case of Insanity after Head-Injury. By Dr. H. RAYNER, Hanwell.

The following case is interesting as showing traumatic injury as an exciting cause:—

A. D., 26, admitted 12th December, 1883. Traveller, a well-developed young man, without history of insanity in his family; but one brother died of phthisis, and two others died in infancy of convulsions, and two of water on the brain.

He has always been healthy and strong until present illness, but had taken a considerable amount of stimulants in the transaction of business. Three weeks ago, when under the influence of liquor, he fell from the step of his vehicle backwards, sustaining a wound one inch to the right of the occipital protuberance. He was "stunned" at the moment, and was more or less insensible for twenty-four hours afterwards, during which time he had three "fits," bit his tongue badly on the right side, and was much convulsed.

The next day he complained greatly of pain all over his head, believed that he was giving away watches and chains, became restless and unmanageable, and was finally brought here after three weeks.

On admission, slight inequality of pupils existed, the right being the larger. There were also tremor and slight inco-ordination of the facial muscles. His appearance suggested the idea of general paralysis, but there was no mental enfeeblement, and the exaltation had disappeared. He complained of sleeplessness and of pain in the right frontal and anterior parietal regions. The sleeplessness rapidly improved, but for some time he complained of inability to sleep for an hour or two after retiring to rest. The pain in the head and sleeplessness gradually passed away, but after they had ceased were easily reproduced by exertion, or anything which increased the general or local circulation (as dancing or reading). He was discharged recovered on 7th Feb., 1884, and has since remained well.

The treatment consisted in rest at the outset, combined with milk diet, and, later on, tonics, with absorbents.

The history of this case suggests that there had been some contusion or commotion of the cortex of the cerebrum

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at the seat of contre-coup, which, from a careful consideration of the direction of the blow, was probably localised in the upper surface of the left anterior lobe and the adjacent parts of the motor area.

The toxic effect of the alcohol acting on this contused area may be presumed to have caused the epileptic attacks; the mental symptoms were probably due to hyperæmia of the same areas, the local loss of vascular control being further evidenced by the difficulty in going to sleep and by the recurrence of headache on excitation of the circulation.

The recovery was chiefly due to the excessively good nutritional and reparative powers of the individual. In a less healthy person, or under unfavourable circumstances, it would not be difficult to imagine a chronic degenerative process developing from an injury attended with such symptoms.

OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

The Lunacy Laws.

There is apparently no subject in the present day upon which more seems able to be said and written, or about which the public appears to have less exact knowledge, than that of the Lunacy Laws.

It is so easy to talk glibly about danger to the liberty of the subject, and so difficult to guard against the license into which that too often degenerates.

So much feeling is imported into each discussion when the periodical recrudescence in the public mind on this question occurs, that a temperate and reasonable discussion of it becomes almost impossible. While the supposed heinousness and danger of the Lunacy Laws are set in the light by the interested or the ignorant, there seems to arise a conviction that whatever is must be wrong, and the dangers to society of delay in treatment, and the risks of reliance upon the apparent harmlessness of mild forms of insanity, are temporarily relegated to an obscurity, out of which they too often have a rude resurrection.

While no well-informed person doubts that the Lunacy Laws are capable of improvement, and that personal liberty needs to be hedged about by every safeguard with which the law and public opinion can environ it, so no one should fail to remember that society has a right to be protected, not only from gross

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