myxœdema whom he had seen two were insane. In one case he had carefully examined the brain, but could detect no change, though he found traces of neuritis in the peripheral nerves, which perhaps might be accounted for by the changes in the integument. Dr. Greenfield's paper was illustrated by a large number of preparations under the microscope, and some views of patients thrown from the magic lantern. Dr. R. A. Lundie then dealt with the treatment by injection of thyroid juice. He found that the raw thyroid, or thyroid extract, was a safer and equally efficacious method of treatment, and exhibited some cases in which improvement amounting to an absolute cure had followed his treatment. Dr. John Thomson showed two cases of sporadic cretinism—one a child aged four, the other a dwarf said to be eighteen—in which there was great improvement from thyroid feeding, both in the physical symptoms and in the intelligence. Other cases were exhibited by Drs. Affleck, W. Russell, A. Bruce, Dunlop, Church, Dr. A. T. Davies, of London, and Dr. Stalker, of Dundee. On the second day Dr. Murray, of Newcastle, appeared. He explained the process of reasoning and observation by which he had been induced to commence this new method of treatment, and cautioned his audience against the danger of large doses, whether in the form of injection of the juice or thyroid extract. Dr. Foulis gave a warning of the same kind. He had a patient who died within twenty-four hours after taking a quarter of a sheep's thyroid—that is, of the whole thyroid, for in the sheep it appears as two glands loosely held together by connective tissue. A safe dose seems to be to commence with one-eighth of a whole gland taken in rice paper. The fact that undoubted improvement has taken place from transplantation of the gland, and the use of thyroid juice in one form or another, cannot fail to excite reflection amongst those who have to treat insanity. The conclusion seems to be that the thyroid gland secretes and sends into the circulating fluid something useful to the function of the brain, and that the blood is not only a repairing, but a vivifying fluid, without whose stimulus the functions of the nervous system would cease.

THE FREEMANTLE ASYLUM FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The reports of the Superintendent and of a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly on this Asylum afford an interesting view of the needs of the insane in this colony.

The Asylum contains 125 patients, of whom 26 are of the old Imperial convict class, Chinese and Malays forming a large proportion of the residue, many other nationalities being represented. These are under the care of six male and five female attendants, and appear to be crowded together without any possibility of separating the violent, obscene, and filthy from the decent, orderly, and convalescent. The mixture of nationalities must render this state of things doubly injurious and obnoxious.

The great predominance of the Malay and Chinese insane, it is suggested, is due to their being imported, there being no supervision of immigrants in this respect.

The Asylum has 13½ acres of ground, and already appears to be nearly surrounded by the rapidly growing city of Freemantle. Regret must, therefore, be expressed that the necessity which exists for the enlargement of the Asylum is not taken advantage of by transferring the institution to a more rural district, where a much larger area of ground could be obtained and segregation carried out on the plan of Alt Scherbitz and other insane farm colonies.

A reception house could be retained on the present site on the plan advocated by Dr. Norton Manning.

The Superintendent, Dr. Burnett, is to be congratulated on the manly and temperate expression of the great difficulties against which he has had to contend, in spite of an altogether inadequate pecuniary recognition of his services.

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