frequently sought, and cases of mental disease frequently ameliorated by their removal. Psychiatry had been far too given to unlimited verbosity as regards mental disease, rather than the search for clinical and curative methods. In a recent number of the Journal, Dr. Goodall had given a very carefully considered review of those conditions of mental disorder associated with chronic sepsis. Again, it had been pleasant to see, in the July number, 1932, a monograph on Sinusitis in Mental Disorders, giving directions as to the treatment of this disease. Of course the foci found most easily were those of the teeth and gums, whereas others were most difficult to trace and costly to treat. He had had two patients suffering from uterine toxæmia hysterectomized a few weeks ago. Both had recovered from the operation, and one lady had lost the sullen and hallucinated state in which she had been for some years, and had made a good mental recovery. The other was much improved mentally. But he would not advise hysterectomy except in such mental cases as show definite symptoms of pelvic disease of a septic nature.

Cotton in America and Hunter and Ford Robertson in Great Britain were the great exponents and advocates of specialized surgical treatment in these cases.

One could not but feel that many of the writers on the subject were possibly unduly optimistic of its value, and one could not neglect the hereditary factor in the causation of insanity.

Dr. MOLONY cited a case where a septic nasal condition seemed to be clearly associated with confusional symptoms, and in which the latter symptoms had temporarily become more marked on the septic conditions being dealt with.

Dr. GRAHAM expressed the view that he was never able to satisfy himself that a septic focus was the sole cause of any mental illness, and he cited several interesting cases, where a combination of conditions—shock, heredity, stress, etc.—had been in operation as well as the septic focus. He was, however, strongly in favour of attempting—where possible—to remove any focus of infection.

Dr. MILLS stated that he had frequently dealt with conditions of nasal sepsis and sinusitis in members of his staff, but had never met with one who showed any tendency to mental symptoms. He had frequently had chronically inflamed appendices removed from mental patients, without any apparent benefit to their mental state.

Dr. HONAN expressed the view that focal sepsis was already losing its prestige in the domain of physical diseases, and that the extraction of tonsils, etc., for rheumatism in children appeared to be of doubtful benefit.

Dr. KEENE cited a case of intractable delusional insanity where an attack of carbuncles had brought about a cure, but, unfortunately, only a temporary one.

Dr. R. H. TAYLOR stressed the importance of following up the removal of septic foci by vaccines, so that more distant and inaccessible foci of infection might be reached.

The CHAIRMAN, in summing up, stressed the importance of a complete clinical examination of every patient, and that every effort should be made to restore the patient to a condition of sound bodily health.

On the motion of Dr. KEENE, seconded by Dr. MARTIN, a vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Leeper for his kind hospitality.

After the meeting the members were entertained to tea by Mrs. Leeper.

PATHOLOGICAL, BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL SUBCOMMITTEE.

REQUEST FOR AUTOPSY MATERIAL.

Dr. Pickworth, Hollymoor, Northfield, Birmingham, would like to have sections, about 1 cm. thick, of formalin-fixed brains from early typical cases of dementia præcox, general paralysis and lethargic encephalitis. Also blocks of the skull containing the sphenoidal sinuses from cases of suicide, lethargic encephalitis and active mental disease, especially if associated with recent epilepsy.

Please state: Initials, age, duration of mental disorder, type of mental disorder, cause of death, and time between death and fixation of material.

Dr. B. H. Shaw, County Mental Hospital, Stafford, would like to have the parathyroid glands from cases of epilepsy.

NOTICES BY THE HONORARY LIBRARIAN.

The Library is open to members between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Books are issued to borrowers between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m.; Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

The Hon. Librarian will endeavour to obtain any books on psychiatry and allied subjects required by members.

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