up with the profitable occupation of his inmates. The list of recoveries was decidedly in favour of him who, in conjunction with moral treatment, did not forget to employ the peculiar weapons of the physician. In combating insanity *moral* and *medical* treatment must go hand in hand: they are the twin brothers of the psychotherapeutic art, the Castor and Pollux of mental medicine.

Dr. Winslow's sketch of the medical treatment is enlightened and judicious. He refers briefly to some very interesting points. On Dr. Brierre de Boismont's plan of treating acute mania by warm baths continued for ten or fifteen hours, with a current of cold water continually poured over the head, he says, "The result of my own experience of this plan of treatment has produced a very favourable impression on my mind, and I think it entitled to a fair trial in all our asylums where recent cases are admitted." We have ourselves seen excellent results from such baths of two or three hours' duration, but we have not had the courage or the patience to apply them for the time recommended by the French physician. We have found it exceedingly difficult to administer such baths to a struggling patient.

In dementia, with effusion, Dr. Winslow recommends painting the scalp with tincture of iodine: in dementia, with atrophy, he speaks well of cod liver oil with preparations of iron.

The third lecture, *On Medico-Legal Evidence in Cases of Insanity*, comprises eighty pages, and is a disquisition rather than a lecture. With the exception of Ray's book, there is no treatise in the language on this difficult subject which combines such knowledge of instances with so much philosophical acumen. Ray, though more systematic, has the disadvantage of being somewhat out of date. No medical man ought to present himself as a witness in a lunacy case, without having carefully studied this most instructive lecture. Our limited space alone prevents us from attempting to analyse it.

Conviction of an Attendant for beating a Lunatic.

On the 25th of August last, William Townsend, an attendant in the Nottingham County Lunatic Asylum, was prosecuted before the Justices, at the Shire Hall, for having assaulted, ill-treated, and beaten Samuel Grice, a patient confined in the asylum. From the evidence of other attendants it appeared that Townsend had beaten Grice with his fists, giving him black eyes, and bruising him about the body and legs.

The magistrates found the defendant guilty, and imposed a penalty of £8, in default of payment of which he was committed for two months to the house of correction.

Cholera in the Essex County Asylum.

Within the last fortnight cases of cholera have occurred in the Essex County Lunatic Asylum, and very exaggerated rumours on the subject have got abroad, but upon enquiry we learn that the total number of deaths from the disease is only five. From the 7th August, when the disease first appeared, up to the 31st, there had been eleven cases, of which five proved fatal, two have recoverd, and four remain under treatment, two of them being convalescent. In the same period there have been nine cases of choleraic diarrhœa, which has carried off three of the patients, but five have recovered, and the other, who is convalescent, remains under treatment.—*Chelmsford Chronicle.*

Worcester City and County Lunatic Asylum.

At the Meeting of the Committee of Visitors on the 23th ultimo, the charges made by the late Dr. Grahamsley against the Matron, Mrs. Piaget, were investigated, and after certain facts had been stated by the other officers of the establishment, and Mrs. Piaget had been heard in her defence, the Committe unanimously directed the following minute to be made: "The Committee have come to the conclusion that Mrs. Piaget has been guilty of acts of insubordination; that after having been reproved by the Committee in March last, for writing an improper letter to Dr. Grahamsley, she has on two subsequent occasions written notes to the Doctor inconsistent with their relative position in the establishment; that she several times left the asylum without the permission of Dr. Grahamsley, and refused to obey his reasonable request to deliver to him the daily record book; that she allowed the female servants of the establishment, who had combined to give notice to Dr. Grahamsley, to leave the asylum in a body, to present her with a piece of plate the day before the expiration of their services, thus countenancing an act most prejudicial to the interests of the institution: Resolved therefore, that Mrs. Piaget be immediately dismissed, and that a month's salary, in addition to the sum due, be paid to her by Mr. Hume."

Inquest at the Warwick County Lunatic Asylum.

On the 5th of September an inquest was terminated at this asylum on view of the body of a patient named John Frazer Mutone. Our limits prevent us from giving the lengthened details of the evidence, which occupied three days. An attendant named Briscoe swore that another attendant named Woodward threw himself upon the top of Mutone, who was holloing at night, and held him by the throat, and put his knee upon Mutone's chest several times violently. Other attendants denied that Woodward had made use of unnecessary violence. Woodward himself, after being duly cautioned, stated on oath that "hearing the deceased holloing and making a noise, he went into his room. He was standing up by the bed. I caught him by the arms just above the elbow, and laid him on the bed. The deceased fell on his back with his feet out of the bed. I fell with my weight on his two who had the patient removed to the padded room. This arms over him on to the bed." Dr. Parsey was called, occurred on the 12th of August, the day after the patient's admission. Woodward and Briscoe were at enmity, and the latter had threatened to injure the former.

The most important evidence was that of Mr. Ber-

https://doi.org/10.1192/S2514990300001105 Published online by Cambridge University Press

nard Rice, who said—"I am a surgeon, practising at Stratford-upon-Avon. I came at the request of Dr. Parsey, on the 18th August, to take his duties as superintendent and resident medical officer at Hatton County Lunatic Asylum. I first saw the deceased, John Frazer Mutone, on Saturday the 19th of August." After describing the symptoms during life, which were not remarkable, he said—"On Friday the 25th (the day after death), I made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased. There were no bruises; some sores were on the chest and thighs, and marks of old sores. There was a slight scratch on the skin of the neck. There was a swelling in the right side over the false ribs, and the ribs seemed larger on that side, and bulged where the swelling was. On opening the body I came upon a quantity of matter above the ribs, between the flesh and the ribs. I sponged that away, and some more oozed up between the ribs. When I cleared it away, I found the ribs were broken. When I cleaned it, I found that the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth ribs were broken on the right side. The fifth was entire; the fourth and the third were broken. The fifth, also, on the left side was broken. I removed the ribs and found a considerable quantity of matter under them, and the matter surrounded the broken ends of the ribs. I examined them carefully, and found that some quantity of bone had disappeared altogether. There was no blood diffused in the neighbourhood of the broken part, and there was none amongst the matter. The appearance of the broken ends of the bones was very different from that of the bones which I broke at the time for the purpose of comparing them. There were no bruises in the skin or tissues over the ribs. The lungs and pleura were inflamed, and the liver, one kidney, and the brain were diseased. I am of opinion, that no one symptom or appearance alone was sufficient to cause death, but all of them together. The inflammation of the pleura and lungs was not general, but confined to one half. There were no old adhesions, but some recent. The lung was merely congested, just passing into the first stage of inflammation. There were no remains of any clots of blood. They must have been absorbed. There was a little fluid in the pleura. The pus found was healthy. The bones did not touch one another, nor did they fit. I am satisfied that the ribs could not have been recently fractured. It is a difficult matter to fix the precise period when they were fractured; *but I am prepared to say, that they could not have been fractured within the last month.* I should think they had been done some time before that, but whether a long or short period I can't say. My reasons for my opinion are, the quantity of bone which has been absorbed would require a considerable time for its absorption. At the time of the fracture there must have been a very considerable quantity of blood effused and injury done to the neighbouring soft parts. This blood must have been all absorbed, which would require three or four weeks at the least. It could not have been removed by the formation of matter, or I should have found the matter discoloured, or with lumps of blood amongst it. The formation of matter must have been distinct action going on after the absorption of the diffused blood, and this would have required at the very least a week; so that, with the three or four weeks required for the absorption of the blood, extends the period to four or five weeks. The deceased walked about the ward several times after the day I first attended him."

Dr. Parsey stated, that on the admission of the patient he had a peculiar gait and carriage; he was somewhat bent forward, and always walked with his arms folded across the lower part of his chest, and his movements were slow, but I had no reason to suspect any malformation or any accident having happened to him. "I think that if what is stated of Woodward's conduct by Briscoe is correct, Woodward's conduct was very brutal and uncalled for; and if what Harrison states is correct, Woodward's conduct was most injudicious and improper."

The jury returned the following verdict: "The jury are of opinion, that the evidence does not justify them in coming to any other conclusion than that the deceased died from natural causes; but they are of opinion, that Woodward used more violence than was necessary, and that the attendants Harrison and Briscoe are to blame for not checking such violence, and they would suggest that for the future greater care should be taken in the selection of attendants. The jury think it necessary to state, that they discredit Briscoe's evidence."

Appointment.

DR. SHERLOCK, late Medical Superintendent of the Royal Asylum at Perth, to be Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the County and City of Worcester.

Obituary.

J. H. B. SANDON, ESQ., late Medical Superintendent of the Dorsetshire County Asylum, at the latter end of August, of phthisis.

Mr. S. Highley's First List of Announcements for the Session 1854-5.

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All Communications for the forthcoming Number should be addressed to the Editor, DR. BUCKNILL, *Devon County Lunatic Asylum, near Exeter, before the 1st day of November next.*

Published by SAMUEL HIGHLEY, of 32, Fleet Street, in the Parish of Saint Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, at No. 32, Fleet Street aforesaid; and Printed by WILLIAM AND HENRY POLLARD, of No. 86, North Street, in the Parish of Saint Kerrian, in the City of Exeter. Saturday, October 1, 1854.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S2514990300001105 Published online by Cambridge University Press