unsystematic and cumbersome in plan, defective and tedious in execution, that mountains of crank, futile, and irrelevant evidence are accumulated, in which the really valuable matter is inextricably buried.

The commissioners, after weary months or years of inquiry, despairing of ever reducing their huge accumulation of so-called evidence to any semblance of order, usually make a Report that is a compromise of the most extreme views rather than a mean, based on a comprehensive and reasoned abstract.

Our specialty has been so ably represented in this inquiry, that we must hope that their views of the care of these defectives may be fully appreciated by the Commission, and find full expression in the forthcoming Report.

Leave of Absence on Trial.

The legal status of patients on leave of absence on trial, we are informed, has been again submitted to the consideration of legal authorities, with the result that the previous opinion has been reversed. The patient on trial is recapturable if, in the consent granted by the Commissioners in Lunacy for a specified period, it is stated that such consent is revocable before the expiration of that period. In our allusion to this matter in the April number omission was made of the fact that the case on which this question had arisen was Dr. Weatherly's.

Part II.—Reviews.

Paralysis and Other Diseases of the Nervous System in Childhood and Early Life. By JAMES TAYLOR, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician for Out-Patients to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square; Physician to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, and to the Moorfields Eye Hospital. London: J. and A. Churchill. Pp. viii, 512; 74 plates. Price 12*s.* 6*d.*

In dealing with the work before us from the alienist standpoint we are at first tempted to select for comment only those sections which are directly concerned with mental abnormalities. Brief reflection, however, shows that almost every nervous ailment of childhood and

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