and initiating lunacy legislation, which by slow yet sure degrees led to enactments made to protect the lunatic and to provide accommodation in asylums which are now the pride of England. With regard to mechanical restraint, its abolition is stated to rest, not with the Retreat, but with Gardiner Hill, Charlesworth, and with Conolly, who attributed his remarkable career in this direction mainly to the Retreat, and observes that, 'although, certainly, restraint was not altogether abolished at that establishment, it undoubtedly began the new system of treatment in this country, and the restraints resorted to were of the mildest kind.' To him the article in the 'Journal of Mental Science' pays a glowing tribute of praise for the ultimate developments of lunacy reform. Now that the battle of humanity has been fought, and the combatants have gone to their rest, their respective share in the work can be and is judged with calm impartiality, and their respective merits justly recognized. This remark applies to those who laboured in France as well as in our own country, and at the dinner of the Medico-Psychological Association at York, a collateral descendant of Pinel was present to do honour to the Retreat on attaining its Centenary, while this physician's health was fittingly proposed by Dr. Hack Tuke, who ungrudgingly paid a warm tribute to the meritorious act of Pinel in the dark days of the French Revolution, in knocking off the cruel fetters of the insane at the Bicêtre. That there should be such a recognition of noble reforms initiated so long ago in the two countries is unmistakable evidence on the one hand of the profound impression they produced, and on the other, of the cordial relations which exist between the alienists of France and England. As we have intimated, no trace of jealousy or rivalry appears in this very pleasing episode. Would that the same happy feeling of international goodwill characterized all the victories of good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance, at home and abroad!"

The Leamington Parricide.

The trial of Ernest Greatrex for the murder of his father, at Leamington, was of more than usual medico-legal interest on account of the clear ruling by Mr. Justice Wright that the mere recognition of the nature and quality of the act of murder as a punishable offence was not enough to insure that a prisoner was responsible for the act done. The out-

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lines of the case are as follows:—The prisoner belongs to a family in which there are both insanity and epilepsy in several members. There are neuroses on both sides of the family, and the prisoner's brother is at present in an asylum suffering from delusional insanity. Nothing very peculiar was noticed till the prisoner had left school, when he was placed in his father's business; there he seemed to be discontented with his position, and thought that he was not paid sufficiently, though he had really a good salary for his position. He was then sent to New Zealand as traveller for the firm, and later started a business in connection with his father there, but he managed to lose altogether about £16,000, and then returned to England not in the least seeming to take blame to himself, but rather thinking it was his father's fault for sending him to the colony just when there was trade depression; in fact, he had begun already to attribute to his father a wish to injure him and treat him unjustly. After some time in England he was again started in life, with a capital of over £5,000, on a ranche in America, but here he took to lying in bed and neglecting all business. He quarrelled with his partner and his wife, and thought that his father had poisoned their minds against him. He thought, too, that his father had advanced the money only to get 8 per cent. for it. He accused people in the neighbourhood of hinting things about him; matters got from bad to worse, so that in the end he lost his money and returned to England once more full of his grievances. He was allowed enough money to keep him, but he complained that he had less than younger members of his family, and he accused both mother and father of acting unjustly towards him, and neglecting his interests for those of their daughters who had contracted what he called disgraceful marriages, the only disgrace being that they had married doctors who were then not in large practice, and who received from the fathers of the wives money support.

The idea of persecution was growing rapidly, so that he thought all the family were against him; he was so troublesome that he was induced to go abroad, for he was then threatening his father. He also was complaining of all sorts of bodily ailments, and was, in fact, hypochondriacal. He was treated in Geneva by hydrotherapy, and he sent home piteous complaints of his illness and his need of more money; he appeared to want to blackmail his father.

He sent home paper with mustard on it, saying this was

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the matter which was being sweated out of him by the doctor.

Further allowances were made him, and provision for more if he married or set up a house. Yet he was dissatisfied.

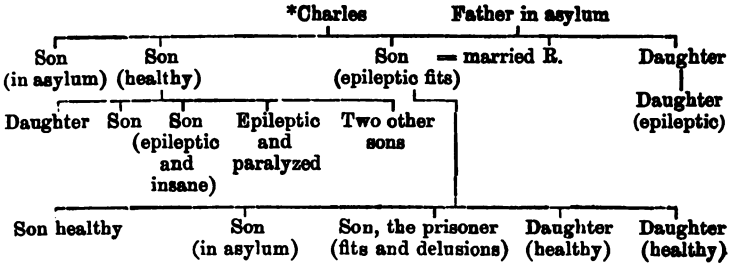
Various means were tried to please him, but he became more and more alienated from his friends. He was seen by doctors, and was referred to two London physicians, who, however, looked upon him as a bad lot instead of as a person suffering from delusional insanity.

At last, towards the end of May of this year, having moved from various lodgings in consequence of noises which disturbed him and which prevented him from sleeping, he warehoused his furniture, went down to Leamington, and knowing his father's habit of taking a morning walk, deliberately followed him, ran up to him, and shot him in the chest when he turned round; then when he fell he shot him in the back, expressing satisfaction at what he had done. He made no resistance when taken, but said he wished he had killed himself, but that he had not the courage to do it. From the time he was in Warwick gaol to the time of the trial he enjoyed good general health; he did not express any regret at the act he had committed, but frequently said he had done what was quite right and that he had rid the world of a monster. He said he might have done the same for his mother (who died earlier in the year), and to his whole family, as they had treated him badly from the first. He had the air of one who was talking in an indifferent way about an act of no great gravity that had been done by some stranger. The prisoner was described as having marked nervous twitching of the eyelids, this being most marked on the left side; also that there were very brisk knee reflexes, and it is said unequal contraction of pupils. There were no very marked physical signs of anything but nervous instability.

The prisoner, when pressed, admitted that he had had several losses of consciousness, but he made light of them, though they were evidently epileptic in nature. So much for the history of the man. The trial was not of long duration. The first points which were established were evidences of premeditation and design. He wrote many long letters; these were read in court and proved very tedious, for they repeated over and over again the groundless accusations of bad treatment, and threats of doing himself

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justice. He went so far as when writing to his father's lawyer to talk of assassinating his father if he did not get immediate satisfaction. The letters themselves were very characteristic of the delusional patient, verbose and constantly harking back on the one subject of complaint, yet well composed. After the general evidence showing design, the gaol surgeon was called, and he gave evidence which was not satisfactory to the court generally, for he would only say that he from his own observation had seen nothing in the prisoner which pointed to insanity. Sir Charles Russell asked if he took into consideration the letters and the family history, but he declined to consider anything but facts observed by himself. We think such evidence is unworthy of a member of our profession. Dr. Edgar Sheppard was also called for the Crown, and though his first impressions were that the prisoner might be responsible, yet when he heard the letters and the pedigree* he quite accepted the notion that the prisoner might be insane, though he also believed he might have known the nature and quality of his act and might be considered in part responsible. Mr. Whitcombe was the last Crown witness, and he gave in a very clear way conclusive evidence that the prisoner had not only delusions, but was physically and mentally defective; he had no hesitation in considering him irresponsible for the act he had committed. Sir C. Russell now appealed to the Judge if there really were anything to go to the Jury, as the Crown witnesses had so strengthened his position as to the insanity of the prisoner. The Judge decided to call the medical witnesses for the prisoner, and Drs. Blandford and Savage gave evidence as to the state of insanity of the prisoner, and gave it as their opinions that he was suffering from chronic insanity with delusions of persecution, and that he did the act as a direct result of the delusions from which he was suffering, and that he did not



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know that he was doing wrong; rather that he believed he was doing good by ridding the world of a monster. We must say that Mr. Dugdale, Q.C., who was prosecuting counsel, conducted the case in the most satisfactory way, not pressing for a verdict, but striving to place the facts and their relations clearly before the jury without prejudice, and this he did most thoroughly. Sir C. Russell spoke briefly, telling the Jury their function was to decide on the sanity or insanity of the prisoner. The Judge summed up as follows:—

It was of the highest importance in dealing with criminal cases to bear in mind that a man was not exempt from criminal responsibility merely because he had in himself or family insanity. Most criminals who committed atrocious crimes had in themselves tendencies towards insanity, and experience showed generally that their relations, or some of them, had actually shown insanity, but it had never been the law of the land that persons should escape punishment because they had insanity in them. They were often astute and careful to avoid the consequences of what they did, and were very much alive to the notion that they might escape on the score of insanity. It was very important that all should understand that such was not the case. Nevertheless, there must be in a humane country some kinds and degrees of insanity which would be regarded by courts and juries as such that it would be cruel and useless to punish persons who in those conditions committed the crime. The question was whether this was one of these cases. They must not acquit a man if he knew what he did was wrong and contrary to law, but there were cases in which a man might do wrong and know it was wrong and not be punished. That was so in that case. They ought to find that when the prisoner committed the act he was insane. The result would be that he would be confined till he recovered his mental health, if he ever did. The questions they had to consider were, first, was the prisoner in a state of substantial delusion as to the conduct of his father, mother, and perhaps of his sisters? If they believed Miss Ryder, who saw the act done, and the brothers and solicitors of the deceased, or any of the four, there never was the slightest foundation for the prisoner's belief that he was the victim of wrong at the hands of his father. Then, was a man who could entertain an idea so persistent and recurring, and so filling his own mind and life, responsible for his actions? If they thought these were delusions, and that the father and mother treated him with kindness instead of the way he suggested, then they must ask themselves, Was this delusion so violent as to cause him to do what he did? As early as October or November, 1891, he wrote to his father's solicitor a letter showing a growing intention, rather than a formed determination, to use the revolver upon his father if he

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did not get what he wanted. On May 14 he wrote to his father's solicitor, saying "If you do not in a week do what I want you to do I will assassinate my father." At the end of the week he wrote: "The time is up; I must do what I said." He immediately made preparations, and without having made any preparation for his own escape he came down there and shot his father. What, to his Lordship's mind, was suggestive was that on the way to the police-station, instead of expressing sorrow such as they might expect from a man in such a situation, he was narrating his wrongs. The mere fact of the man killing his father was one they might take into consideration. Unless there were some hidden quarrel a sane man was hardly likely to follow his father and fire a bullet into his chest, and then follow him again and shoot another bullet into his back. This was hardly the action of a sane man. The examination of the doctors rather confirmed the view that he was not responsible for his actions. He, therefore, thought if they believed the evidence they might take a merciful view in this case, which was so very exceptional, and though it was not disputed that the prisoner did the act, he was irresponsible, being insane by reason of this particular delusion respecting his father's conduct. The jury, after a very short interval, found him guilty, but insane at the time he committed the act.

And thus ended the trial, and we think no more need be said than that it is satisfactory to get a judge who so fully recognizes that a man may understand the nature and quality of an act and yet be irresponsible in the eyes of the law.

Report on Hypnotism.

The Committee on Hypnotism appointed by the British Medical Association at the Birmingham Meeting, 1890, presented their Report after an interval of two years to the Nottingham Meeting, July 26th, 1892. The members of this Committee were Drs. Broadbent, Clouston, Gairdner, Needham (Chairman), Mr. Langley (Cambridge), Drs. Kingsbury, Conolly Norman, Hack Tuke, Outterson Wood (Hon. Sec.), and Yellowlees.*

The terms of reference are given at the heading of the Report.

* The late Dr. Ross was originally a member of the Committee. An interim Report was presented to the Annual Meeting at Bournemouth.

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