ner: first, he leads them to believe that they are wolves, so that, blinded by fancy, in their own proper human form they actually attack and wound men and cattle; second, while really in deep sleep, they dream that they are wandering about and injuring men and cattle, their master the devil meanwhile doing that which their disordered fancy pictures to them; third, Satan impels real wolves to do some mischief, and at the same time so affects the imagination of lycantropes, as to cause them to believe that they are the guilty parties.

Majolus (Dier Canalic, t. 2, colloq. iii.) relates that a prisoner was brought by some peasants to a Duke of Prussia, accused of wounding cattle. He was deformed, and had wounds in his face, caused by the bites of dogs. He confessed that, twice a year, about Christmas and at the feast of St. John the Baptist, he was in the habit of assuming the form of a wolf, and that it caused him much trouble and discomfort when the hairs made their appearance, and he underwent the metamorphosis. He was kept in prison for a considerable time, but, although carefully watched, no transformation was observed.

William of Brabant states that a reasonable man was so deceived by the art of the devil, that many times in the year he thought himself to be a raving wolf: without sense, he wandered about in the woods, and especially followed little boys. At last, by the grace of God, he recovered his reason.

In 1521, Peter Burgot and Michel Verdung, both lycantropes, were burned at Poligny.—(Wier de Præst Dæm, lib. 6, ch. xi.) According to Fincelius (De Mirabil, lib. xi.) in 1541, a peasant of Pavia maintained that the only difference between himself and a real wolf consisted in this, that in a wolf the hairs of the skin are external, but in himself turned inwards. In order to test the truth of his story, the judges, before whom he was brought, made incisions into his legs and arms; at length, however, they declared him innocent, and delivered him over to a surgeon, but he died a few days afterwards from the wounds. A person labouring under this delusion was brought to Pomponatius. The peasants wished to have his skin removed, to see whether the hairs were turned inwards. Pomponatius, however, refused to comply with this demand, and by suitable treatment soon cured the man of his delusion. —(Schottus' Physica Curiosa.)

In 1574, the parliament of Dôle, Franche Comté, sentenced Gilles Garnier, called the Hermit of the Bonnet, to be burned alive, because as a wolf he had killed several children. From 1598 to 1650, lycantropy prevailed as an epidemic malady among the inhabitants of the Jura mountains, and it has been computed that as many as six hundred persons were executed as lycantropes or demonomaniacs. Among these I may mention,—Pernette Gandillon, who believing herself to be a wolf was torn to pieces by an infuriated mob; her brother Pierre Gandillon, his son George, and his daughter Antoinette, who, labouring under a similar delusion, were all condemned to be strangled by the hangman and then burned. Another unfortunate, at Chalons, was condemned by the parliament of Paris to be burned.—(*Vide* Calmeil, tom. i., p. 279.) In Prussia also, the Teutonic Knights not unfrequently condemned lycantropes to the stake.

Chiefly through the exertions of Wierus of Brabant, physician to the Duke of Cleves, the true nature of lycantropy and other similar diseases was at length recognized, and the unfortunate victims of the delusion became objects of pity rather than of punishment. Considering the period at which he lived, the exhortations of Wierus are particularly strong, and his statements remarkably explicit. In his work, "De Præstigiis Dæmonum, et Incantationibus, et Veneficiis," Wierus appeals to the emperor and the state, and implores them to spare the guiltless dæmoniacs who are, he asserts, for the most part maniacal persons, or melancholics, or poor hysterical women.

The doctrine of lycantropy probably arose from the belief in the existence of good and bad spirits, and from the intimate relation which existed between the primitive pastoral nations and their animal companions. Evil deeds, it was thought, were punished by change after death into one of the lower animals, and virtuous deeds rewarded by a progress in the scale of organization. Thus Lycaon's metamorphosis was referred to the anger of Jupiter at his crime of serving up human flesh at a banquet. It was and is still usual to represent bad spirits in the form of animals of prey, with claws; thus, in the Indian mythology we find them figured as dogs, cats, tigers, etc. The middle ages were deeply imbued with this notion; the devil was pictured as a goat, and magicians, sorcerers, and witches, were described as assuming the form of cats, or of noxious or disgusting animals.

Now the opinions and modes of thought of the age usually give the form and colouring to the delusions of the insane. The disordered mind, like a mirror, reproduces only what it has received. It may render back its impressions more or less truthfully, more or less distorted, and in an almost endless variety of recombined forms, but it does not exert any creative power. In our day, delusions take their colouring chiefly from physical science; absurd notions respecting steam, electricity, magnetism, etc., have usurped the place of those derived from the poetical religious myths of the credulous middle ages. Some delusions, indeed, being founded upon passions which always exist in the human breast, are common to every people in every age. But it is only during the middle ages that we observe numerous instances of the rapid spread of such epidemics as the St. John's and St. Vitus's dance,—as the children's crusades,—as lycantropy,—and as the various delusions and irrational acts founded upon religious ideas, which abounded in cloister life, and are so ably recorded by Hecker, Calmeil, and others.

FATAL FIRE IN A LUNATIC ASYLUM IN NORWAY.—A fire broke out in the night of the 5th of January, in the Public Lunatic Asylum of Bergen, Norway. The firemen were immediately on the spot, but the conflagration spread with such extraordinary rapidity, that all efforts to get the fire under proved unavailing. There was not even time to get all the 268 patients out. Out of that number 22 were not to be found, and must have perished in the flames.—*Continental Paper.*

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Abstract of Meteorological Observations taken at the Gloucester County Asylum, 1853, *by* Dr. Williams, m.r.c.p., *Superintendent of the Asylum.*

Latitude 51°.52′ North; Longitude 2°.15′ West. Cistern of Barometer 100 feet above the sea level.

	BAROMETER				THERMOMETER				HYGROMETER			RAIN			WIND																	
															N. to E.				E. to S.				S. to W.				W. to N.					
	Highest	Lowest	Range	Mean—Corrected and reduced to 32°	Highest	Lowest	Range	True corrected Mean	Mean Temperature of Air, corrected for Decimal range	Mean Dew Point	Degree of Humidity Saturation being = 100	Quantity fell during each Month	Dry Days	Wet Days	N.	NNE.	NE.	ENE.	E.	ESE.	SE.	SSE.	S.	SSW.	SW.	WSW.	W.	WNW.	NW.	NNW.
				Inches								Inches																			
January	30·24	29·17	1·07	29·59	55	27	28	42·20	41·37	35·96	0·737	2·21	9	22	1·5	1	3·5	.	.	.	3	2	1·5	1	13·5	.	·5	·5	1·5	1·5
February	30·20	29·05	1·15	29·63	50	17	33	33·89	33·94	25·44	0·724	0·89	14	14	2·5	.	10·5	.	2	.	·5	.	1	.	4·5	.	1	.	6	.
March	30·24	29·52	·72	29·53	60	17	43	39·37	39·30	34·48	0·840	0·45	21	10	2	1	7	.	2·5	·5	4·5	.	1·5	1·5	6	·5	1.5	.	2·5	.
April	30·33	29·31	1·02	29·75	67	30	67	48·83	50·06	41·10	0·708	2·02	15	15	5·5	·5	1·5	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	3	2·5	6.5	.	6·5	1
May	30·20	29·48	·72	29·81	88·5	30	58·5	56·87	56·43	45·31	0·706	2·61	20	11	3·5	1·5	7	1	5·5	·5	3	.5	1	.	1	.	1·5	·5	2·5	2
June	30·20	29·60	·60	29·77	86	40	46	60·62	61·14	53·04	0·751	3·75	10	20	2·5	1	3	·5	3·	.	1	.	1	.5	5·5	1·5	6	.	2·5	2
July	30·26	29·31	·95	29·76	90	45	45	62·84	62·36	55·58	0·798	2·91	9	22	1·5	·5	·5	.	·5	.	.	.	1·5	1	4·5	1	14.	1	4·5	·5
August	30·35	29·16	1·19	29·83	83·5	44	39.5	62·30	63·41	55·44	0·753	1·89	24	7	1·5	4	6·5	.	2·5	.	1	.	.5	1	1	1	9·5	.	2	·5
Septemr.	30·41	29·91	·50	29·87	74	40	34	56·78	57·11	54·23	0·891	2·07	15	15	3	1	2·5	1	1	1	·5	.	1·5	.	1·5	4	7	1·5	3	1·5
October	30·12	29·00	1·12	29·59	65	31	34	51·78	51·92	46·48	0·816	3·13	5	26	1·5	1·5	3	1·5	.	1	1·5	1	1·5	3·5	3	2·5	5·5	1	2·5	·5
Novemr.	30·60	29·72	·88	30·02	63	23·5	39·5	41·90	42·60	39·15	0·927	1·70	18	12	4	3·5	1	·5	.	·5	1·5	·5	2·5	1·5	1·5	3·5	1·5	2·5	4	1·5
Decemr.	30·47	29·29	1·18	29·87	51·8	8	43·8	35·13	35·45	32·03	0·916	0·71	17	14	3	1·5	6·5	2	.5	2·5	5.5	.	.	2·5	·5	1	2·5	·5	1·5	1

Abstract of Observations shewing the frequency of occurrence of Epileptic Fits, taken at the Gloucester County Lunatic Asylum in 1853.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Total Number of Fits recorded in the Month	145	186	232	202	200	195	205	228	220	241	238	269
Number of Patients under observation	16	21	23	23	22	21	22	24	21	25	25	25
Proportion of Fits to each Patient	9·06	8·85	10·00	8·78	9·09	9·28	9·31	9·87	10·47	9·64	9·12	10·76
Mean Daily Number of Fits	4·6	6·6	7·4	6·7	6·4	6·5	6·6	7·3	7·3	7·7	7·9	8·6
Greatest Number on any Day	14	13	17	13	13	12	23	16	14	14	18	13
Least Number on any Day	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1

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