half ago, we pointed out the danger of such works getting into improper hands, and being used for other purposes than those of scientific research (see vol. xliii, p. 570). It is now evident enough that our fear is justified, and we trust that observers in the field of sexual depravity will bear in mind the lessons of the Bedborough case. The perpetual repetition of the theory of Ulrich, that some people are naturally possessed of a perverse sexual feeling, is tiresome. We are never favoured with an atom of proof, and writers seem to imagine that they advance their arguments by heaping up unsavoury details—details which, however harmless they may seem to us who are accustomed to the vagaries of insane passion, will, if they fall into the hands of the vulgar, be treated as a mere bundle of very dirty stories, and as such are liable to become part of the stock-in-trade of the pornographic bookseller and his wretched *clientèle*. We are sorry for Mr. Ellis, especially as he was unable to defend himself, the charge being only against the vendor of various works; but we are of opinion that he should have exercised more care with regard to the mode of production and sale of his volume in its English form. If it is found impossible to avoid the introduction of monographs on such subjects into the secret drawer of the dealer in indecent books, then in our opinion the production of these monographs should cease, as they are likely to do more harm to their readers among the general public, and to their authors, than will be compensated by the instruction they give to those who read them with merely scientific desire for information, or who have already had more than enough of detailed cases.

Pathological Laboratories.

The last Report of the Pathologist to the London County Asylums gives evidence of the high quality of the work in progress at the Asylums Laboratory. Without attempting a review of the Report, we may here allude to the chief topics with which it is concerned, and these are—The occurrence of acute fatty degeneration in certain muscles in general paralysis of the insane; the action of cholin—a product of degeneration of brain tissue, which exists in the cerebro-spinal fluid of

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general paralytics, and of other cases of chronic brain disease --in producing a fall in the blood-pressure, with suggestions as to the dependence of certain of the phenomena of general paralysis upon this action; the relationship of syphilis to organic brain disease and general paralysis; the pathology of the primary degeneration of the neuron in certain affections of the cord; the minute changes in the cortex of general paralytics, and studies of the vagus and sympathetic nerves in general paralysis; the estimation of phosphorus and sulphur in brain and spinal cord in healthy and diseased conditions, with an associated histological study of the cortex cerebri in the same cases. Dr. Mott also promises the publication of the first instalment of the 'Archives' of the Laboratory, with a full account of the work which has been accomplished. That the disease—general paralysis—should occupy such an important place in the Report is natural enough, for the brain in paralytic dementia presents to the pathologist tangible realities which, we would assert, are more than the sum-total of the conditions presented by that organ in the other forms of insanity. Tuczek's observation of the degeneration and atrophy of the tangential system of fibres in the cortex of general paralysis has been confirmed by various observers, and now by Dr. Mott. We do not remember to have seen any adequate suggestion in reference to the pathological significance of this degeneration; and, as far as we are aware, there is not any evidence to show that the tangential fibres are affected separately from other medullated fibres of the cortex in diseases of the cortex, though we believe that some are of opinion that in certain morbid conditions they suffer the earliest amongst such fibres. We consider that, in regard to the medullated fibres of the cortex generally, there is considerable scope for prosecuting the work of Kaes in this field in the case of insane brains.

Dr. Mott, we observe, expresses the opinion that the changes in the nerve-cells of the cortex in general paralysis are partly due to primary progressive decay of the cells, partly to changes brought about by stasis in the vessels. The latter, we presume, are changes due to anæmia. We gather that Dr. Mott is of opinion that the formative proliferation of the glia-cells (sclerosis) is secondary to the necrobiotic changes in the neuron. We believe that this view, in contra-distinction to that which regards the vascular and connective-tissue changes as the

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earlier, is the more widely held now. The views of Bevan Lewis upon the "scavenger" function of the hypertrophied glia-cell have not, we think, received support from other writers. Doubtless the point is most difficult of proof. We shall await with interest the latest views of Bevan Lewis in the second edition of his work, which we understand is about to appear.

Dr. Mott has devoted much pains to tracing the relationship between syphilis and organic brain disease, and more particularly general paralysis, and he is in accord with the increasing number of authorities who believe that syphilis is the most important factor in the production of general paralysis. To this view we note that Oppenheim subscribes in the second edition of his *Handbook of Diseases of the Nervous System*, published in May last.

The interesting report, to some features of which we have alluded, is available for the perusal of our readers, and we need make no further reference to it.

In this connection we would refer to "Memorandum No. 3," just issued from the Laboratory of the Scottish Asylums, which sufficiently indicates the good work in progress there. *Inter alia*, the "Memorandum" draws attention to the list of asylum demonstration-sets now available at the laboratory—preparations and slides for the purpose of study. This would appear to be one of those things which they do better in Scotland. It may be that at the Laboratory of the London County Asylums such demonstration-sets are in course of preparation, and that the medical officers of the metropolitan asylums enjoy the same privileges as their Scottish colleagues. As regards English county asylums generally, even when there is a pathological laboratory we fear that much time is lost, and that many mistakes are apt to be made, by men who have to start pathological work without experience, often without guidance, and without the corrective influence of a standard demonstration-set of sections.

The Innervation of Intra-cranial Blood-vessels.

That the nerve-fibres follow the course of blood-vessels in the membranes enveloping the brain has long been known, but upon the subject of the innervation of the cerebral blood-vessels

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