hostile feeling in certain quarters, but had always conducted its business with the strictest regard to the feelings of those who are opposed to them.

Mr. GEORGE JACKSON (Plymouth) moved the adoption of the report, Mr. J. J. PURNELL (Streatham) seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The following resolution was then proposed by Mr. ALBAN DORAN: "That the Association of Fellows pledges itself to use its utmost endeavours to secure the return of Mr. John Tweedy at the College election on July 7th." Mr. Doran observed that many able men after election to councils never succeeded in understanding procedure and never gained a fair knowledge of by-laws. All who had served on councils of societies were aware of this fact. Yet, in order to make a good councillor, skill in procedure and a full knowledge of by-laws were imperative. Mr. Tweedy was one of the very few persons who had a full knowledge of the intricate charters and by-laws of the College of Surgeons, and his ability at public meetings was well known. He would prove a most valuable addition to the Council.

The resolution was seconded by Dr. W. J. COLLINS, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. JOHN TWEEDY, in thanking the meeting for the resolution which had been passed in his favour, said that it was well known that he had been reluctant in coming forward; nevertheless, he took such a warm interest in the Association that he felt that he could not refuse to become a candidate for the Council, especially when the invitation had been conveyed to him in such a flattering manner by those with whom he had been associated upon the Committee of the Association.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, and Mr. RIVINGTON, in proposing that the present officers of the Association be re-elected, added that there were two vacancies upon the Committee caused by the death of Mr. William Adams, of Regent's Park, and by the resignation of Mr. Lawson Tait. He also said that it was advisable to make the Committee as widely representative as possible, and that it was of great advantage to have Fellows from different parts of the country serving on the Committee. It had been suggested to him that he should give an account of his stewardship at the College. But it would be very inexpedient and improper to reveal the secrets of the prison house. He could not go beyond the published minutes of the proceedings of the Council. From these it would be gathered that progress was being made. Some might desire that the Council of the College should advance rather faster, and less like the traffic on a suburban line. But everything now depended upon the Fellows themselves. This important concession had been made by the Council—that separate meetings of Fellows would be called for consultative purposes whenever the Council thought it desirable, and on requisition from the Fellows. This concession was the cardinal point in all reform, and, if properly utilised, would lead to all the other concessions which the Fellows of the College as a body might think desirable. He proposed that the following names be added to the Committee, namely: Mr. J. Vincent Bell (Rochester), Mr. George F. Helm (Truro), Mr. George Jackson (Plymouth), Mr. C. B. Keetley (London), and Mr. J. J. Purnell (Streatham).

The motion was seconded by Dr. J. T. JAMES (London), and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

ITALIAN CONGRESS OF LARYNGOLOGY.—The Italian Society of Laryngology will hold its first meeting in Rome about the middle of October. Among the subjects on the programme for discussion are the following: Phases, Nature, and Treatment of Laryngeal Papillomata, to be introduced by Professor F. Massei; Diagnostic Importance in Ear Diseases of the Perception of Sounds by the Cranial and Aërial Paths, by Dr. Corradi; Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Sinuses Communicating with the Nasal Cavities, by Dr. Strazza. Communications have also been promised by Dr. Abate on the Diagnosis of Gouty Laryngitis; and by Dr. Fasano on the Co-existence of Syphilis and Tuberculosis of the Larynx and on the Mercurial Treatment of Certain Nasal Scrofulides.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MENTAL CONDITION AND TRIAL OF THE RAINHILL AND WINDSOR MURDERER (DEEMING ALIAS WILLIAMS).

By J. Y. FISHBOURNE, B.A., M.B., CH.M. T.C.D.,
Official Visitor to the Metropolitan Asylums, Victoria; Examiner on
Mental Pathology to the University of Melbourne,

AND

J. W. SPRINGTHORPE, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S.,
M.R.C.P.LOND.,

Physician to the Melbourne Hospital, Lecturer on Therapeutics to the
University of Melbourne.

BELIEVING that the readers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL throughout the world will be expecting to receive some authoritative account of this case we venture to send the accompanying statement¹ of our examinations of the prisoner together with such explanatory remarks as seem to us desirable and necessary. Not unnaturally we were not prepared to go into the witness-box on the morning following our last examination and give an expert opinion upon such a case, especially since, in addition to the statements of the prisoner, we had found upon him signs of blows on the head, more or less depression, a seton mark at the back of the neck, and large deep syphilitic scars on the limbs and trunk. In addition his eyes had not been thoroughly examined by anybody, and in reply to our inquiry we had received a telegram from the Governor of the Sydney Gaol to the effect that the accused had been treated in the gaol hospital for epileptic fits, whilst his extreme restlessness was a notorious fact, and there was no evidence of alcoholic excess. Further, his statement as to the presence of lunacy in the family and his apparent hallucination as to the appearance of his mother had been already verified by cable in a remarkable manner. We therefore asked for an adjournment, and from the importance and intricacy of the case went to the extent of declining to give evidence if a postponement were refused. Despite this, the strongest protest that we could make, the trial was proceeded with, and we were compelled, upon subpoena, to give such evidence as we had collected.

Remarks upon the Prisoner's Statements.—All the statements were obtained on cross-examination upon different occasions, and always in the presence of a Crown witness. In giving his answers the prisoner seemed to us like one who was obliging us with what was of no particular importance to himself, earnest even where he was evidently not stating the truth. We soon saw that all his statements could not be dismissed as lies, but the facility and dexterity of his lies made it all the more difficult to separate these from what might be exaggerations, distortions, and even hallucinations. In some cases we had hopes of being speedily able to obtain the measure of his exaggeration or distortion, as in the Sydney and Calcutta fits, the behaviour in the Hull Gaol (the Governor of which was present at the Court, but, contrary to expectation, was not called upon by the Crown as a witness), etc. Other verification, however, as of the family history, though of paramount importance, was, unfortunately, not immediately procurable. All attempts at outside corroboration or disproof, however, were prevented by the hurried action of the Court, and the case was tried without them.

Dealing with his statements in detail:

1. *Family History.*—Some of his statements seem quite true, how far they may be exaggerated in others is still uncertain. We hope that careful investigation will yet be made upon the spot by some competent inquirer.

His father ill-treated him; died in Birkenhead Asylum, did not know whether Benevolent or Lunatic Asylum. His mother was always good to him; was in a lunatic asylum before his birth, came out for his birth. Had five or six brothers; one younger than himself in an asylum. Had three sisters, one dead, one was not right in her head.

2. *Personal History.*—We also hope proper inquiry will be made as to his (?) confinement in an asylum as "Teddy Williams," and the truth or otherwise as to his being placed in a House of Correction for "tearing up his clothes in the street." In our experience of him, at no time could we find him in a position in which he seemed to have a true or even ordinary view of his surroundings, or was reacting normally

¹ Extracts from the statement are printed in small type.

to his environment. His life seems best described as an extravaganza, under the influence simply of *bien-être* and sexuality tempered for years by lack of funds.

3. *As Regards his (?) Delusions.*—(a) His mother's influence and appearances. Here his story has been quite consistent, and maintained to the very morning of his execution. It has also been partially corroborated by cable. He regarded it as a real delusion—harmless until the bad attack of syphilis in South Africa. His account of that attack is graphic and gruesome. It seems to have made a tragedy of his life. Some of the Whitechapel murders become immediately possible by way of revenge. This delusion grafted on to syphilophobia suggests also a clue to the Rainhill and Windsor atrocities. The syphilitised child is the only thing that he mentioned more than once and returned to of his own accord. The actual recurrence of syphilis, or the fear of it, on the way to Australia, and the possible syphilisation or pregnancy of his new wife may have suggested her removal, and necessitated, in his mind, preparations for the similar treatment of any future wife, also (b) his story of his unconsciousness on his birthday is difficult of explanation. (c) His story of his changes of name and their influence appears to date from early life, before there was any legal incentive, and the probability seems to be that there was more of delusion than deception in it.

Age between 36 and 39 years; does not remember anything until 12 years old, except he was in an asylum near London. From 12 to 16 was never well. Was called "Mad Fred." He used to do all sorts of things, but never did wrong; for example, he would take things away but would return them again; threw a girl in a canal for calling him Mad Fred, pulled her out again, then threw her in again because she still gave him that name, then he left her in, and changed his name to "Harry." About 16, ran away to London, knocked about starving and cold all the winter, was put in an asylum under the name of Teddy Williams; he ran away, climbing over the wall; was arrested for tearing up his clothes in the street, and taken to a House of Correction. Went to sea; from the first took different names and different capacities—even in a return voyage in the same ship—not because he had done anything wrong, but on being pressed, gave the delusion, or lie, or mixture of both, about his mother's presence and effect of change of name. Had done all sorts of things; was surprised to find that without experience he could do anything he tried; often did not know why he did things; shivered to think if he had to do some of them again. Had always, since boyhood, been addicted to women. Will not admit the feeling is entirely or mainly sexual; is fond of them and of making them happy. Had syphilis very severely in South Africa in 1889; treated by Dr. Matthews for six weeks; only interrupted treatment for few weeks, deep penetrating scars on legs, etc., appeared early. Symptoms subsided till four months ago; very bad in London; changed his name and got well. Tried to find the woman who gave him disease; went to four places after her; would have shot her if he could have found her.

4. *Regarding his Fits.*—Absolute corroboration has been received from Sydney, where Dr. O'Connor, a lunacy expert, states that the prisoner was under his treatment for very severe epilepsy ten years ago. Partial corroboration, also, has been received as to the attacks in the Calcutta Hospital; but we hope to see a statement in reference thereto in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL from the hospital authorities. Further, it is worthy of notice that in addition to a well-described attack on the way from Perth to Albany, and a possible fit in the Melbourne Gaol itself, the prisoner gave an account of a series of attacks in the Federal Coffee Palace, almost immediately previous to the Windsor murder. Again, from our own examinations generally, and from an indescribable look which frequently came over him, though we saw neither *petit mal* nor *grand mal*, yet there were suggestions of masked epilepsy and even of double consciousness.

Stated he was subject to fits; had had hundreds—first about eighteen, severely in Sydney; no warning except nervous and shaky. Once fell from an engine and severely injured himself; often knocked himself severely; had very often bitten his tongue and lips. Asked if his bowels moved, said "No, but had wetted his trousers in a fit." Had not known of it till told. Under the name of Deeming was under treatment for the head and fits in Calcutta Central Hospital between 1879 and 1881. Dr. Jones and many other doctors; seton in back of his neck. Also in Darlinghurst Hospital 1881-82, under the same name, under Dr. O'Connor, for six weeks, for fits. His memory sometimes so bad that he cannot recollect anything. When thus affected never leaves a room if he can help it; nothing but confusion; has been four days that way. When in a fit does not know himself at all; does lots of things those days which he does not know. As a rule is not more than two or three months in a stretch without any trouble—longer if not over-worked or worried. Has had one fit in gaol; warder stated it lasted two minutes; struggled, no frothing or tongue-biting, no micturition, complete recovery, headache left behind, in bed later than usual. Had no fits coming out from England, but three in the Federal Coffee Palace the day after his arrival. Could not write anything some days, some days wrote a lot. Dr. O'Connor had been with him, practically, all day in fits. On his birthday was unconscious that day and part of the next. His mother wakes him up every morning at 2 o'clock; she always appeared before him as when last seen

before death, always besides him exercising an influence on him. Many a time she has held him by the right wrist (he always points to the right side when pointing to her), and he cannot get away. Had sent his first wife away from Africa through it. Mother always tells him if he has a lady friend to kill her, or a wife to kill her. Has never seen anyone in this way but her; hears no other voices. Changed his name to try and escape from this. On the next day he always felt easier; that he thought to get out of his life by parting with the past. Did not see why he should be responsible under new names. As an instance, he said that when in London with the syphilis he changed his name, and the syphilis disappeared.

5. *Regarding Injuries to the Head.*—It is impossible from the examinations made to say what effect these injuries may or may not have had upon the brain of the prisoner, but it is, to say the least, suggestive that one scar with depression was not far from, if not quite within, Ferrier's area No. XII, and that tremors of the eyes were complained of, and seen by others though not by ourselves.

Has also two scars on the head from injury, not syphilis, one posteriorly, one to the left side somewhere about the junction of the frontal with the parietal lobes, both somewhat depressed; cannot say if any bone came away; they broke out fresh for seven weeks with the syphilis. Blow on the forehead when a boy from a slate, leaving an old scar; often suffers from headaches; no tremor except of eyes; no vomiting. Head circumference over eyebrows 21½ inches, from ear to ear 11½ inches, tip of nose to occiput 13 inches.

6. *Regarding his Moral State and Mental Powers.*—His answers to Dr. Shield's inquiries upon the ten commandments gave further evidence, if more were needed, that he seemed quite destitute of the moral sense. Neither judge nor jury, however, seemed to understand that this could co-exist with perceptive powers of unusual efficiency, a good memory of dates and details, and the cunning of a fox. He had, however, the usual want of judgment and comparison.

Maintained that he was perfectly innocent of both murders—that his wife Emily was not dead; he would never have done such a thing. Thought it might be right to kill a man if there were a good reason, and and right to keep it dark when done. Thought it better for a man with syphilis to kill even his wife rather than contaminate her, especially if as bad as he was. The woman who had given him syphilis had made a useless man of him for two years. It was right to kill such; he would have killed her, and intended to kill her, and would not have thought it murder. Regarding the ten commandments, they were made years ago; then there was not much known; he put little faith in them—did not hold with them. They were made for the convenience of the higher class. As regards stealing, it was not stealing if the man could afford to lose it. It was right to hang a man if they thought it right apart from the merits of the case; who was going to stop them? If they thought it right they had a cause for it; did not think every murder right; some were. A man might do a wrong murder if he had no cause; it was for him to decide.

7. *His Account of the Murders* showed considerable constructiveness and ingenuity. At the same time it is against overwhelming evidence, full of unnecessary lies and horrors, and simultaneous with several so-called "confessions." In all these latter his mother appears. There is a strange hesitancy and indefiniteness about the description of the actual deed, an assumed or real forgetfulness (we believe the latter) as to the details, and suggestiveness of epilepsy as a concomitant if not cause. As regards the premeditation, we would be glad to see if it has been actually proved that the first cement was obtained for the purpose of concealment and not as a legitimate part of the lease. Certainly in the second murder, where the idea is no longer new, the murder seems to have been committed some days before the date advanced by the Crown, and the premeditation would then have been much exaggerated.

From the first he desired and apparently aimed at only the defence of the facts. To us he seemed to reason thus: "No one saw me kill her; none knew when she was killed. The Crown has no evidence as to the former and false witnesses as to the latter. I ought not to be brought in guilty." This is the keynote to his remarkable address to the jury—an address from a so-called liar full of a certain kind of truth, and certain to prove his sanity to a jury to whom his counsel was maintaining his irresponsibility.

As to date of his mother's inciting to kill, first told him to kill his first wife more than four years ago, but never troubled him much till in Africa. Was on his way up to Kimberley after getting to Africa; got the syphilis. Sent for his wife; worst of syphilis over. No peace after that; left her twice because they could get no rest; woke up every night to destroy her; sent her home on that account. The first night he threw his revolver out and broke a window and that awoke her; again the next night he was incited to kill her, and three more times afterwards. Told her why he sent her away. The syphilis broke out on the way home on the South Coast of England when with Miss Matheson, and also in the *Kaiser Wilhelm*. Asked by Dr. Jamieson, "Would you think yourself constituted a champion to carry out such a sentence upon anybody with the syphilis?" he threw back his head and said with emphasis, "I should think I would!"

Conclusions.—(1) As to the prisoner's state of mind, the

Government medical witnesses pronounced this man sane. Dr. Shields, the Government medical officer, and Dr. Jamieson, lecturer on medicine in the University, added that nothing would make them alter that opinion. Dr. Dick, the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums, considered him an instinctive criminal and responsible, but would modify his opinion if he knew he was suffering from brain disease. On the other hand, we declined to give a positive opinion at that stage of our inquiry, though, had the action been a civil one, we were prepared to certify him to a receiving house for further observation. (2) As to the conduct of the trial, we cannot but regard the trial as having been too hasty for a proper judgment. We feel compelled also to complain that no scientific attempt was made by others or permitted to us to discover the motives of this remarkable murderer, or to obtain a reliable "confession;" and, further, that no attempt at all was either made or permitted to test his connection or otherwise with similar atrocious murders of interest to the whole English-speaking race. (3) Lastly, it is with the deepest regret that we have to state that, notwithstanding strenuous and continued effort on the part of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association, the Government of this colony absolutely declined to permit of a *post-mortem* examination of this prisoner's brain, following the precedent that they had set themselves in the recent Colston case—another case of disputed sanity—against all past experience here, and in the face of all usage in all civilised communities. To prevent such examination of such a brain can be nothing less than an unpardonable offence to science.

THE KEELEY "GOLD CURE" FOR INEBRIETY.

THE usual quarterly meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety was held at 4 P.M. on Tuesday, July 5th, at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. Dr. NORMAN KERR, President of the Society, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance.

The CHAIRMAN said that there was to have been a paper read by Dr. Williams, but he had consented to postpone it until the meeting in October in order that they might discuss the Keeley "cure" for inebriety. Having referred to the efforts of temperance reformers and prohibitionists in the cause of inebriety—who, he said, had performed their work by intelligent and straightforward methods, by which a great number of drunkards had been reclaimed or cured—he said there was a feeling amongst many persons that the evil of intemperance had grown so rapidly and extended so widely that they thought to find some short cut to temperance by some one or other miraculous remedy. There was their old friend mesmerism, or hypnotism. He was not in favour of either of those methods; but still it was a straightforward and open remedy, and, if applied in the presence of another medical man and an assistant, it was not liable to be called a secret remedy. He merely mentioned that to disassociate it from the so-called "gold cures." The first "cure" was one which was dispensed on the shores of the Mediterranean by a Frenchman, and which was found to contain fourteen different drugs. Then they came further down till they got to the double chloride of gold cure, which claimed to effect 95 per cent. of cures. But that was not sufficient, for they now had another rival American cure which was located in our midst, and that claimed to cure 100 per cent. of the cases in three weeks, "and if you are not cured in that time and you have observed the rules, your money will be returned." Another drug remedy has only to be swallowed unconsciously by the patient for him to be cured in spite of him or herself. The reason why they took up one particular cure that afternoon was because special circumstances had occurred which had brought the chief proprietor of this so-called "gold cure" into prominence, and which had warranted the society examining further into the matter and having a British analysis of the compound made to see what it was really composed of. Dr. Kerr then briefly detailed the circumstances under which they had caused the postponement *sine die* of a meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society, which was to have been held under the presidency of Bishop Barry, to hear an address on "the gold cure." He continued that although that meeting was stopped, yet a great deal of harm

had been done, and the great name of the Church of England Temperance Society had been to a certain extent trailed in the dust, through its very near plunge into a commercial speculation which had for its object the sale of a secret proprietary or so-called "gold" remedy for drunkenness. The real object of the gathering was apparently to assist in the formation of a syndicate to raise £150,000 in this country in order to purchase the right to use the so-called "remedy" in England. One of the pamphlets issued by the proprietors of the "cure" stated: "The patient need make no effort; the cure follows the taking with the same certainty that night follows day." If it was really a genuine American temperance remedy, surely it ought to have the approval of men whom they all knew as having been actively identified with the great temperance movement in America, but he had looked in vain for the approval of such men. Analyses in America had detected atropine, strychnine, etc. The Society had thought it right to have an analysis of the medicine made by an eminent analyst. He was not at liberty to publicly mention his name now, but he would say that there was no analyst in the United Kingdom whose dictum could be received with less hesitation. His analysis was that so far as he could make out the bitter contained in it was chiretta, with probably some other American bitter. Then there was 61.31 per cent. of water; sugar, 6 per cent.; and mineral salts, probably lime, a small quantity. That was what was called the double chloride of gold cure for drunkenness; the competent analyst found no gold and no chlorides. But the strange part was that among those who had lauded the medicine to the skies were old teetotallers, and yet it was found to contain 27.55 per cent. of alcohol. There were two bottles, Nos. 1 and 2. This was an analysis of No. 1. The compound had been condemned by the whole reputable medical press of America, and also of Great Britain, and also by the reputable medical men of America. Having quoted some of the results of the "cure," as given by Dr. C. H. Merr, in an American journal, Dr. Kerr said that the (so-called) "remedy" was opposed to the whole principle of an enduring temperance reformation, because the first thing to do was to cut off the poison, while the "cure" commenced by giving alcohol. Inebriety was a complex disease, and it needed moral, mental, and medical treatment.

Dr. J. E. USHER, F.R.G.S., of Melbourne, then gave an account of a visit he had paid to the establishment at Dwight. He said that Dr. Keeley told him that he had used the remedy for twelve years, and that it had been very successful. On asking him the *rationale* of the treatment, and the prescriptions used, the doctor replied, "Oh, we won't go into that, I know it is all right." He then witnessed the injection process, and saw rows of men into whose left arms the injection was made of five drops of a pinkish looking material, which, in his opinion, contained atropine. Having referred to the results of the treatment on some of the patients, Dr. Usher said it was very expensive to be treated at Dwight, for every person that went had to pay 25 dollars down, and from 5 to 25 dollars a week, and there were hundreds under treatment when he was there.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that he had invited Dr. Keeley to attend the meeting and explain his treatment to them, but he had received a letter in which he said that as he had arranged to deliver an address that evening at St. James's Hall, it would not be possible for him to attend.

Dr. MORTON, of Kilburn, then proposed the following resolution: "That this meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, of which the members are registered British medical practitioners, is of opinion that any so-called 'cures' for inebriety, the composition of which is not disclosed, are unfit to be commended by honourable members of the medical profession, who are bound to place the full details of their treatment before their professional colleagues—a requirement as essential in the interest of the public as it is consonant with the disinterested practice of scientific therapeutics." He remarked that unless the voice of the medical profession made itself heard, there was a danger that this so-called "cure" would get a footing in this country which would enable it to do incalculable mischief before the bubble was blown. All honourable medical men agreed that medicine should be practised not for gain but for the benefit of the sick and suffering, and it was for that reason that it was altogether