THE HOUR OF DEATH.

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At Colney Hatch Asylum, and for that matter, I suppose, at all lunatic asylums, the time of death of the patients is recorded with a degree of accuracy which probably surpasses that of any other institution or amongst the public at large. For this reason I venture to submit the enclosed table and chart as being of some interest on the subject referred to in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of September 26th.

The female cases are 1,000 in number, and are the deaths amongst the admissions for the last sixteen years. The male cases, which are reduced to the same proportions for the sake of comparison, are founded on 3,424 cases, representing the deaths amongst admissions for the past thirty-seven years.

The table brings out some remarkable results, which I shall not attempt to explain. I would, however, call attention to the following points: The great rise that takes place in the death-rate amongst the males between the hours of 5 and 7 A.M., placing this some one or two hours later than the view popularly held, which is generally referred to by the more ignorant as about midnight, and by the better educated as in the small hours of the morning, between 2 and 5 A.M. The entire absence of a great rise in the early morning amongst the females, but in its place a decided fall. On the other hand the most fatal hour with these females occurs shortly before noon, and again between 6 and 7 in the evening; but throughout the twenty-four hours the recording line of the females neither rises nor falls to the same degree as the males, but remains more steady.

By far the greater proportion of these deaths were due to the exhaustion of one or other of the various forms of insanity. Further, the average age of the females was far greater than that of the males.

Recorded Time of Death of 1,000 individuals of both Sexes in Colney Hatch Asylum.

A.M.	Males.	Females.	P.M.	Males.	Females.
12-1	25	42	12-1	32	42
1-2	36	39	1-2	41	35
2-3	27	33	2-3	41	36
3-4	42	42	3-4	45	37
4-5	33	44	4-5	46	46
5-6	68	43	5-6	43	45
6-7	59	32	6-7	33	57
7-8	48	39	7-8	46	43
8-9	45	51	8-9	27	37
9-10	44	44	9-10	39	35
10-11	47	44	10-11	34	39
11-12	48	56	11-12	41	39

LITERARY NOTES.

PROFESSOR C. A. EWALD, Editor of the *Berliner klinische Wochenschrift*, has had the title of Privy Councillor conferred upon him.

In the *Revue Médicale de la Suisse Romande* of October 20th Dr. J. L. Prevost gives an interesting account of the physiological work of the late Professor Moriz Schiff.

The current number (summer and autumn, 1896) of *Brain* contains Part III of a paper by Dr. Henry Head on disturbances of sensation with special reference to the pain of visceral disease, pain in diseases of the heart and lungs being particularly dealt with. Dr. Augustus D. Waller discusses the influence of reagents on the electrical excitability of the isolated nerve; Drs. W. Aldren Turner and A. W. Mackintosh record three cases of new growth with cavity formation in the spinal cord; Drs. A. Bruce and R. Muir contribute a paper on a descending degeneration of the posterior columns in the lumbo-sacral region of the spinal cord; Dr. R. T. Williamson treats of the symptomatology of gross lesions (tumours and abscesses) involving the prefrontal region of the brain; Dr. Joseph Collins, of New York, makes a contribution to the pathology of epilepsy, with a report of two cases in which a portion of the brain cortex was excised and examined, and Professor F. J. Allen contributes a short note on mirror writing.

A German translation of C. Féré's *La Famille Neuro-pathique*, by Dr. Hubert Schnitzer of Berlin, has been published by Fischer's Medic. Buchhandlung (H. Kornfeld). The translation appears to be well done, but several of the plates are blotchy and blurred to such an extent as to make the particular feature which they are intended to show unrecognisable. There are a few misprints. "Brigthsche Krankheit" presupposes a patronymic form "Brigh", which, as Euclid says, is absurd. The correction of "Aestie" to "Austie" in the list of errata is well meant though hardly sufficient, and the gentlemen designated in the index as "Brown (Crichton)" and "Durand-Farvel," may not think the slight liberty that has been taken with their names a very serious matter. When, however, an author thinks that the mere possession of an out-of-the-way name, such as "Consuelo" or "Brutus," is in itself a proof of inherited neurosis, we have a right to ask that he (and his translators) shall be particularly careful not to mutilate or disfigure people's names.

Mlle. Juliette Dodu, executrix of the late Baron Hippolyte Larrey, has placed the correspondence of the two Larreys (Napoleon's surgeon-in-chief and his son recently deceased) in the hands of M. François Bournon for publication. The work will appear in several volumes, the first of which will be issued immediately.

A new medical periodical, the *Scottish Medical and Surgical Journal*, will appear in January, under the direction of Professor Simpson (Edinburgh), Professor Annandale (Edinburgh), Professor Stephenson (Aberdeen), Professor Hamilton (Aberdeen), Drs. Joseph Bell, Clouston, John Wyllie, and Underhill, of Edinburgh, and Dr. J. W. Miller, of Dundee. The journal will be issued monthly, and will be edited by Dr. William Russell, Assistant Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, assisted by correspondents in Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee, and by a large staff of collaborators in all departments of practical and scientific medicine. The intention of the promoters, as stated in the prospectus, is "to have a journal in which Scottish work and teaching in all departments of medicine should be more fully represented than they have hitherto been." The list of promoters contains the names of many of the leading representatives of the medical profession in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Dundee.

It is announced that the Lord Mayor Elect, Alderman Faudel Phillips, proposes to signalise his mayoralty and commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's reign by raising a national subscription to free the public hospitals from debt. It is estimated that the amount required will be from £800,000 to £1,000,000.

DEATH FROM LIGHTNING.—During a somewhat severe thunderstorm which took place on October 10th in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, a group of football players were struck to the ground, one of them being killed. They were just entering Newsham Park when the fatal flash occurred. Dr. R. J. Richardson, who was summoned to the ground at once, and arrived very soon after the accident, found that one man, aged 22 years, was quite dead. His clothing was found burnt and partly torn off him; there was a lacerated wound of the neck, and there were considerable ecchymoses on the right arm and hand.