

*Tent Life with Rest in Bed.*

During the first outbreak of typhoid fever at Kew Asylum an ordinary canvas tent was used for the treatment of the cases. Later, commodious tents holding ten to twelve beds were erected and employed for the treatment of special physical ailments and also for the open-air treatment of mental cases, with very satisfactory results. The tents are built of wooden framing and covered with stout canvas, painted white. The windows are sliding shutters of wood and canvas, and the intervals in the windows and in the double roofs are filled in by fly-proof wire shutters, whilst double doors of canvas and fly-proof wire are also provided. A light but deep canvas verandah surrounds each tent, and underneath it are comfortable seats. The floor of the tent is of wood, covered with linoleum. Each tent costs about £120, and if the cost of adjuncts such as sculleries, etc., are included, the cost of the accommodation works out at about £15 a bed.

*Boarding-out.*

From the asylums, during the year, 56 patients were boarded out with the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum. With private persons, usually in the immediate vicinity of each asylum, 33 patients were boarded out, and Dr. Jones says it is probable that this number will shortly be augmented. The patients are visited quarterly by one of the departmental medical officers, as well as by the Inspector-General.

*Cost.*

The total expenditure of the department for 1908 was £156,041 5s. 4d. The average weekly cost per patient was 12s. 0½d., or, deducting collections, 10s. 4½d.

*Private Licensed Houses.*

There are five private licensed houses in Victoria. Each of these is visited daily by a medical man, and in each a strong nursing staff is maintained. For the patients, averaging about 80, usually resident in these houses, 45 to 48 nurses are engaged as well as 20 others, whose duties are domestic. During 1908, 86 patients were admitted, of whom 75 were first admissions. During the year 19 were discharged recovered and 27 as relieved. There were 13 deaths, all from natural causes and calling for no special comment.

*Receiving Houses and Wards.*

On January 1st, 1908, there were 25 cases in the receiving wards, and on the last day of the year the same number. During the year 400 were admitted, of whom 385 were first admissions. Of the total number, 66 were cases of mania, 83 of melancholia, 67 of delusional insanity, 32 of general paralysis, 29 of primary dementia, 22 of alcoholism, 13 of acute delirium, 24 of epileptic insanity, and 15 of congenital defect, the remainder belonging in small groups to other less frequent types. During the year 157 were discharged as recovered, 7 as relieved, 8 as not improved, 109 were committed to hospitals for the insane, 116 were transferred to hospitals for the insane, and 3 died.

## LITERARY NOTES.

To the November number of the *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital*, Baltimore, Professor Frank Baker, of Georgetown University, Washington, contributes an historical study of the two Sylviiuses. The first—Jacobus Sylvius or Jacques Dubois—is chiefly known as having been a teacher of Andreas Vesalius, whom he violently attacked for his audacity in correcting some obvious errors of Galen. He is generally also credited with having given his name to several parts of the brain—the Sylvian fissure, artery, and aqueduct, and the fifth ventricle. Sometimes it is stated that he discovered the Eustachian valve of the heart and the *caro quadrata Sylvii* (the flexor accessorius muscle of the foot), and that he was the first to use the injection of vessels for anatomical demonstration. Struck by the fact that Vesalius, his pupil and prosector, was ignorant of most of these discoveries, Professor Baker examined the works of Jacobus Sylvius, and satisfied himself that the statements are wholly or partially wrong. He has found that "the modern world, while exalting the

discoveries of this man beyond what they deserve, has also done scant justice to his real merits." First of all, as to the discoveries with which he is credited, Professor Baker says:

No mention of the fissure of Sylvius occurs in the works of Jacobus Sylvius, nor in those of any previous or contemporary author. No particular mention is made of the Sylvian artery (middle cerebral artery). While he describes a passage from the third to the fourth ventricle, this was mentioned previously by Galen, Oribasius, Berengarius, and Vesalius. He nowhere calls it an aqueduct, and there is some slight doubt whether the passage he mentions is really what we now call the aqueduct of Sylvius. He probably never saw the fifth ventricle, though, like Vesalius before him, he describes the septum lucidum in an imperfect manner. He does describe a fold on the wall of the heart at the entrance of the inferior vena cava, so that we may not improperly assign to him instead of to Eustachius the discovery of the Eustachian valve. He describes a *moles carnea*, not a *caro quadrata*, as existing on the sole of the foot, in the situation of the flexor accessorius, but in this he only followed Oribasius, who mentions the muscles attached to the long flexor of the toes.

The injection of blood vessels is mentioned by Berengarius more than thirty years before the time of Sylvius. As for the man himself, Jacques Dubois was born at the village of Louvilly, near Amiens; hence when, after the fashion of his day, he Latinized his name, he called himself Jacobus Sylvius Ambianus. He entered the College of Tournay at Paris, where he mastered Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. He also excelled in mathematics, and devised machines for transportation by water. Becoming interested in the structure of the human body after perusing the works of Hippocrates and Galen, he used every opportunity of examining bodies which chance put in his way. He was too poor to take a degree, but he taught till the number of his pupils excited the jealousy of the Faculty, which issued an interdict. He therefore betook himself to Montpellier, where, after a further course of study, he proceeded to the Bachelor of Medicine in 1531. Returning to Paris, he reopened his classes, and had among his pupils, in addition to Vesalius, Servetus, Gesnerus, Vulpinus, and others whose names became famous in the history of anatomy. He knew the value of human dissection, and impressed this upon his pupils. He had a house in a suburb, in the garden of which he grew medicinal plants, which he used for teaching purposes. This, Professor Baker points out, was before the establishment of botanical gardens. Sylvius has thus been grossly misrepresented not only by Vesalius but by modern writers, for he was before all practical in his teaching. It is not likely that such a man as Vesalius would have remained with him for three years if it were true, as Sir William Turner says, that "a human body was never seen in this theatre." It may be pointed out incidentally that on this subject of human dissection there has been, and still is, much misconception. It was practised long before the time of Vesalius. As Professor Baker says "the generally received opinion that Vesalius sprang like Minerva from the head of Jove, armed cap-à-pie and broke the record of all previous ages by dissecting the human body for the first time, does not bear critical examination." Sylvius followed Galen, it is true, but he cleared up many of his obscurities, and in particular he named many of the muscles and vessels. To him we owe the names "platysma," "deltoid," "diaphragm," "intercostal and abdominal muscles," and the "jugular," "subclavian," "phrenic," "axillary," "renal," "spermatic," "pubic," "femoral," "popliteal," "gastro-epiploic," "superior and inferior mesenteric," and many other vessels. He did not name the nerves in this way, and Professor Baker thinks it is probably owing to this that to-day they are generally designated by numbers instead of by their special characteristics. Sylvius, who had experienced the truth of Johnson's bitter line:

Slow rises worth by poverty deprest,

was undoubtedly jealous of Vesalius, who leaped at a bound into celebrity. The falling off of his classes moved him to write a refutation of the calumnies of "vesanus" (an atrocious pun on the name of his rival), and, like most angry men, he wrote nonsense. He died poor in pocket and bankrupt in reputation at the age of 77, with cruel jests by former pupils for his epitaph. Of the other Sylvius, Francisus de le Boë, we shall have something to say later.

An International Institute of Bibliography has been founded in Germany. It is proposed to issue, commencing with the New Year, a central journal dealing with the whole range of medical literature. In connexion with the institute there will also be an information bureau where questions on medical and scientific literature will be answered. The institute is a part of the International Institute of Social Bibliography, which is subvented by Imperial funds, and is also connected with the International Institute of Technical Bibliography. The editor of the central journal, which is to be published by the Institute of Bibliography, is Professor Abderhalden of Berlin. Associated with him as directors are Drs. H. Beck and A. Ludwig. The address of the office of the institute is 17, Spichernstrasse, Berlin.

In Mr. Ralph Nevill's recently published book, *The Merry Past*, there is the following amusing story:

Complete ignorance of the ways of the world is not seldom an appanage of sentimentalism. Mr. George Love, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, told a meeting in the early part of the present year that an old lady had written protesting against the horribly cruel practice of scratching horses before a race. One poor animal, she had read with grief, had even been "scratched" on the very day of the race. There is no limit to the absurdities of our national faddism, which is constantly seeking to exert its enervating influence, and to dragoon the population at large into an existence of doleful flaccidity.

This is a new form of "torture" which has escaped the notice of Mr. Coleridge. We suggest that he should introduce into his bill a clause providing that horses must be "scratched" only under anaesthetics.

## INTERNATIONAL HOME EDUCATION CONGRESS.

This Congress took its origin from the Home Education League, founded in 1899, with the co-operation of the Belgian Government, with the object of bringing about a closer association between parents and teachers in the study and application of educational methods. The Belgian society, acting in association with similar bodies in other countries, organized an International Congress at Liège in 1905 to discuss the relationship of home life to education. Twenty Governments were represented among the 1,200 members assembled. The second congress was held under the patronage of the King of Italy at Milan in 1906. The third congress is to be held in connexion with the Brussels Exhibition, August 21st to 25th, 1910. The President of the British Committee is the Marquess of Londonderry, and among the Vice-Presidents are Mr. Runciman, President, and Mr. Charles Trevelyan, Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education; Mrs. Sophie Bryant, D.Sc., Dr. James Kerr, Canon Lyttelton, and Mrs. Scharlieb M.D. The Honorary Secretary is Miss Emily E. Kyle, to whom all communications should be addressed at Highbury Hill High School, Highbury, N.

### Sections.

The work of the Congress is divided among five sections dealing respectively with the study of childhood; home education; abnormal children; various subjects bearing on infancy, and literature.

The following is the programme of the first section:

Study of the nature, the defects, and the tendencies of children. Recent observations, methods, practical conclusions. Measurements, instruments, methods, results. Value of various methods for determining mental fatigue. Subjects which tire the pupils least. Length of lessons, order in which the subjects should be taught. Limitation of sedentary habits in the school and at home at various ages. Initiation of the teaching staff into the rudiments of experimental psychology. The usefulness of associations of parents for the study of childhood. Fear in children (general inquiry, primary causes). Child suicides (causes and remedies, inquiries and statistics, examination of several cases). Hereditary evils. Ways of counteracting their bad effects.

The work of the second section is subdivided as follows:

A. *General Question.*—The need of popularizing the idea of education in the family by organizing parents' associations, circulating pamphlets, etc. The games, recreations, and amusements of children which have an educational value. Educating books. Prepared lists of the best picture books for children

of 3 to 7 years; the best illustrated books for children from 7 to 12 years; idem from 12 to 16 years; idem from 16 to 20 years. How the family can contribute to the civic education of young children. How the family can assist in spreading ideas of peace. How by education the family can contribute to the increase of wealth. The need of studying living languages. Methods. Study in the home of a child's natural aptitudes and their development, with a view to choosing a career. Health and beauty in clothing. Health, comfort, and beauty in the house and the furniture. The country family. Rural education. Return to the land. Advantages of country life. B. *Education before the School Age.*—The feeding of infants. Practical advice. The clothing of infants. Education of the intelligence of young children. First habits to be acquired. Games which develop powers. Instructive occupations for children. The development of habits of observation. Development of initiative and responsibility. Arrangement of the child's room, or the family room, from the point of view of the child's education. Servants, nurses, governesses. Training schools. Certificates of capability. C. *Education during School Age.*—At what age should a child be sent to school? Cases in which parents should apply the principles of Froebel at home. Cases in which the teaching of Froebel is justifiable at school. Views of parents with regard to Froebel schools. Unavoidable shortcomings in school education. How to remedy these in the home. Views of parents with regard to the curriculum in girls' schools. Importance of teaching the rudiments of child-culture, health, domestic economy, and other things necessary for practical life. In cases where boarding schools are necessary for young girls how they should be organized that they may reproduce the home as nearly as possible. Ideas regarding the training of teachers of both sexes. Times of examinations and holidays prevalent in different parts of the same country. Medical opinions sought. How to devote more time in schools to the systematic training of character. Manual work. Education in aesthetics. D. *Education after School Age.*—Supplementary education to be given to young girls to fit them to become wives and mothers. Preparation of those who are betrothed, for married life. Advice as to the prevention of quarrels, for strengthening moral union, and assuring happiness in the family. Supplementary education of young men from the social point of view. Aesthetic culture. Home handicrafts for boys. Their hygienic and moral purpose. The frequenting of educative clubs. Travel, excursions, methods to follow. Education in administration. International exchange of children with a view to their learning languages and customs.

The programme of the third section includes:

Classification; statistics. Educative methods. Organization of special establishments for abnormal children, undisciplined children, invalid children, epileptics. Preparation of a special teaching staff for these schools. Co-operation between doctors and teachers. How far and in what way it is possible to co-operate at home in the education of an abnormal child before, at, and after school age. Co-operation of State in the education of abnormal children.

In the fourth section the following subjects are proposed for discussion:

Holiday work, work in the open air, school colonies. Associations to fight tuberculosis. Associations to fight alcoholism. Associations for the protection of children cruelly treated, deserted, illegitimate, etc. Associations for the protection of infants. Babies' outfits, the milk supply, crèches, medical advice for babies. Children's benefit societies. Child life insurance, etc. Children's courts.

With regard to the fifth section it is stated that the library of the International Committee of Education, 1, rue de Musée, Brussels, will receive with pleasure all documents bearing on education (three copies of each). The object of the Congress is to bring about a closer association of home and school influences in education. The subscription is 8s. 6d. The ticket admits the holder to the exhibition during the days of the Congress, and entitles him to a copy of the full reports of the papers read (more than 200 in number) and the discussions. A large number of the papers will be printed in English.

FRAULEIN MARGARITE GENERSICH, daughter of the Professor of Pathological Anatomy in the University of Budapest, has been appointed to the staff of the public hospital for eye diseases at Hodmezovasarhely. This is said to be the first appointment of the kind that has been made in Hungary.

It is intended that in the new buildings of the New York Post-graduate Medical School a full equipment of wards and laboratories for the teaching of tropical medicine shall be established. The department is being conducted with the co-operation of the United States Army, Navy, and Health Services, which detail officers from their respective medical corps to assist in the conduct of the laboratory and clinical courses.