

yet his recovery was sufficiently good after a protracted illness to enable him to resume his employment.

I have not tried Dr. Murray's treatment by means of milk beverage, phosphorus, and dilute phosphoric acid, but shall do so when occasion next arises.—I am, etc.,
Wolverhampton, June 4th. T. DOBSON POOLE, M.D.

THE CONSULTATIVE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL INSTITUTION, BIRMINGHAM.

SIR,—There is one point in connection with the Birmingham Consultative Institution on which I, and I am sure many others, would be glad to be enlightened. I want to know what value the impecunious citizen of Birmingham is to receive in exchange for the fee of 10s. 6d. he pays the institution? When the scheme was mooted I assumed that the institution proposed to maintain a staff of specialists who would be willing to advise on difficult cases for the reduced fee. We know what the profession thought of this plan, but can understand that it might have at least apparent advantages to the public. Now, however, I see that the institution is opening its doors, having appointed one gentleman as "Consulting Physician." I find on reference to the *Directory* that this gentleman has been qualified for just five years, and does not claim, at least in the *Directory*, any special professional distinctions. Alas, not all of us are so modest.

Are we really to understand that this gentleman in all the plenitude of his five years' experience is prepared to act as "consultant" in any and every case submitted to him? Is he really a universal specialist? If not, what more does the patient get for his half-guinea than he would by squandering half-a-crown on a humbler practitioner, who perchance might not be altogether "rusty," even though more than five years had elapsed since his student days? Can anyone from Birmingham explain?—I am, etc.,

Leigh, Lancashire, May 29th.

FRED. E. WYNNE, M.B.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS IN CRIMINAL LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 19th, under the heading of "Medical Notes in Parliament," in which it is stated:

The Lunacy Commission came under discussion on the Estimates on May 11th, and complaint was made of the low percentage of *post-mortem* examinations in criminal lunatic asylums. It would be in the interests of science that in all these cases a record should be kept of the *post-mortem* state of the brain, and the attention which was called to the matter by Mr. Caldwell may be expected to bear fruit, especially as the Commissioners themselves have reported on the point.

I desire to point out that the statements contained in this paragraph are incorrect. The observations relating to *post-mortem* examinations on pages 8 and 9 of the Fifty-Third Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy do not apply to criminal lunatic asylums, and it does not appear from reference to *Hansard* that Mr. Caldwell's remarks were intended to do so.

In every case of death in this asylum a coroner's inquest is held as required by law, and it is the invariable practice to make a *post-mortem* examination, as may be seen by reference to Table 3, Appendix B, of the Reports of the Commissioners in Lunacy.—I am, etc.,

Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum,
Crowthorne, Berks, June 2nd.

R. BRAYN,
Superintendent.

* * We are glad to publish this correction of an error into which our correspondent, in common with the reporter of the *Times*, fell.

REMARKS ON THE HOLMGREN WOOL TEST.

SIR,—As Mr. Bickerton does not mention my work in his article under the above heading, I think that I ought to point out that similar cases to those he mentions are described in my book on *Colour Blindness* in the International Scientific Series. I also state there that these cases show that the Holmgren test is inadequate. They may be readily detected by exhibiting lights, in a lantern, made up of the terminal red rays of the spectrum. A person, colour blind in the manner he describes, may look at a red light, dazzling in its brightness, and declare that the room is absolutely dark.—I am, etc.,

Hendon, May 5th.

F. W. EDRIDGE-GREEN, M.D., F.R.C.S.

BUSINESS AT BRANCH MEETINGS.

SIR,—I have given notice that at the annual meeting of the South-Western Branch I would raise the question as to whether business of importance to the medical profession could or could not be entertained. It appears to me to be suicidal not to take advantage of the occasion to ascertain the views of the members present on matters of importance to them all, especially in view of the annual meeting, which will take place later on.

I wish through your columns to thank the Secretaries of those Branches who have kindly replied to my queries. I find without exception that all the seventeen from whom I have heard up to the present, inclusive of the principal Branches, transact any business brought before them, and apparently, with one exception, they generally have some topic—principally of a medico-political subject—to discuss. Several Branches adopt the plan of electing officers by voting papers sent out beforehand. This gives all members the opportunity to vote, whether able to attend the meeting or not, and causes more interest to be taken in the elections.—I am, etc.,

Plymouth, June 5th.

GEO. JACKSON.

OBITUARY.

JAMES GROSVENOR MACKINLAY, F.R.C.S. EDIN.,

Senior Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital; Surgeon to the Royal Eye Hospital.

JAMES GROSVENOR MACKINLAY, F.R.C.S. EDIN., who died on May 24th, at his residence, No. 15, Stratford Place, W., was born in 1844 at Isleworth. He was the eldest son of Dr. John Mackinlay, a surgeon in the Hon. East India Company's service from 1824 to the expiration of the Company's Charter in 1834, and afterwards in practice for 30 years at Isleworth.

He was educated at Epsom College, and studied at Charing Cross Hospital. Subsequently he became House-Surgeon, and for a few months held the post of Resident Medical Officer. On the somewhat sudden death of his father, in July, 1866, he was hastily called to give up his hospital appointment, and take up the practice at Isleworth.

His thoroughness in work, and in the knowledge of his profession, combined with great kindness of heart and absolute straightforwardness, enabled him to build up a large practice, and greatly endeared him to his patients. To the poorer classes he was a warm friend, as well as a skilled adviser, and when a very serious attack of acute lung mischief compelled him hastily to throw up his practice in 1874, and (under the advice of the late Sir Andrew Clark and other medical friends) seek a doubtful restoration in the Antipodes, his loss was greatly and truly mourned. Two years later, in much restored health, he recommenced practice, but exchanged the wear and tear of general work for ophthalmic practice, which had had great attractions for him in his student days.

After filling the offices of Registrar and Clinical Assistant to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, to which he had been House-Surgeon in 1865, he was appointed Surgeon to the Western Ophthalmic Hospital, which post he held for five years. In 1879 he was elected Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Royal Eye Hospital, and in 1881 to the Royal Free Hospital, and held both these appointments at the time of his decease. He was an original Fellow and early Member of Council of the Ophthalmological Society, to the *Transactions* of which he made numerous contributions, and for many years he was a member of the British Medical Association. His health had failed considerably during the past three or four years, and for the last twelve months he had only on rare occasions been able to attend to any public or private work. By those who knew him intimately his memory will always be greatly cherished, and his premature death sincerely mourned. He leaves a widow to deplore his loss.

An old and intimate friend of Mr. Mackinlay writes: Some twenty-five years back J. Grosvenor Mackinlay found his health failing and his life threatened by tuberculous disease. He promptly gave up London and practice, and, trenching boldly on the capital he had inherited, travelled in luxury for twelve months, following, or rather accompanying, the summer weather round the world, and living an open-air life