

education so universal among the lower classes in Russia makes our methods of training nurses impossible.

The clinics and special laboratories attached to the University of Moscow were a wonder, a revelation, and a reproof to many of the visitors who had deemed Russia behind the age. In the possession and in the most complete equipment of these clinics and institutes, in all departments of medical science, and numbering at least a score, Russia is far ahead of ourselves; though it may well be doubted whether our patients would agree to the methods and arrangements which obtain there. All these clinics are associated with the University, and the teachers are on the University staff. The patients reside in the clinics only while the University is in session and requires clinical material for teaching: they are sent away at the close of the session either to their homes or to some other hospital or asylum.

The Psychiatric Clinique is a complete cure-asylum for fifty patients—thirty men, twenty women—standing in its own ample and well-wooded grounds, and equipped in the most complete manner with all the newest and best instruments and appliances for the investigation and treatment of brain diseases. It is the kind of cure-asylum which should be possessed by the large cities of our own land (except that ours should be three or four times larger), where recent cases could be received and every possible means used for their recovery before passing them on to larger home-asylums; in these, recovery, if attained, would be more tedious, and due more to occupation and moral discipline than to direct medical treatment.

It must be regretfully confessed that the general impression left by the work of the section was that much progress was being made in the investigation and knowledge of disease and very, very little in its treatment. This must be true in all departments of applied medicine until we gain a more perfect knowledge which shall give us, if not the power of curing disease, the power to avert its occurrence or to modify its course. The knowledge which brings depression to day will grow greater soon and bring blessing to men.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT TORONTO.

Sir William Turner's address to the Anthropological Section was of great general interest and of special interest to ourselves.

On cranial capacity, he arrived at the conclusions that this was greater in the European than in the savage, that the range of variation was also greater, that few male savage crania reached the European mean (1,500 c.c.), and that there is less difference between male and female crania in savages than in Europeans.

Flechsig's recent observations and conclusions were very carefully summarised and commented on. Sir William points out that the problems they suggest are "the proportion which the *association centres* bear to the other centres, both in mammals and in man; the period of the development of the *association fibres*, in comparison with that of the motor and sensory fibres in different animals; and, if possible, to obtain a comparison in these respects between the brains of savages and those of men of higher order of intelligence."

Flechsig's observations are described in this number of our Journal, and their importance is testified by the expectation of progress of which these problems give promise.

THE MORISON LECTURES.

Dr. Alexander Morison delivered the Morison Lectures for the present year in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, during the

first week of November, on "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous Mechanism of the Viscera."

In the first lecture he described the hardening and staining methods employed in the histological study of the peripheral nervous system, and described the nature of the nerve-endings at the secreting cell, at the unstriated muscle fibre, and at the blood-vessel especially in excretory organs. In the second lecture he demonstrated the peripheral nerve-mechanisms of the spleen, kidneys, adrenals, and other viscera, and traced the connections of the terminal ganglia of the sympathetic with the nerve-endings in the viscera on the one hand and with the fine fibres of the cerebro-spinal axis on the other. The third lecture was mainly concerned with the physiology of the subject, the innervation of the heart by the vagus and the sympathetic.

The lectures were most interesting, and were profusely illustrated by lantern slides and microscopes. Next year Dr. Morison purposes dealing with the nervous mechanism of the viscera in relation to pathology and clinical medicine.

RECENT MEDICO-LEGAL CASES.

REPORTED BY DR. MÉRCIER.

[The Editors request that members will oblige by sending full newspaper reports of all cases of interest as published by the local press at the time of the assizes.]

Reg. v. Marriotini.

Prisoner stabbed his wife in twenty-five places, and about two hours afterwards threw himself into the Thames. While in the water he discharged a revolver four times. He was rescued, and then said, "I have killed my wife by stabbing her with a large knife. She worried me so much that I told her she would make me murder her." Subsequently he said, "I had a quarrel with my wife. I have been unhappy for twenty years. I have had a miserable life." It was proved that three years before there had been an explosion at the café kept by the prisoner, and that he received such injuries that he was in hospital for five months. When he returned home he was greatly changed, became very irritable, and complained of pains in the head. For ten days before the murder he suffered very much from sleeplessness, and used to wander about the house at night talking to himself.

Dr. Bastian, who had examined the prisoner at the request of the Treasury, and Dr. Scott, medical officer to Holloway Gaol, were called for the defence, and stated that they were of opinion that the prisoner was insane on the date of the murder, and was not responsible for his actions.

The jury found the prisoner "Guilty, but insane."—Central Criminal Court, September 15, 1897 (Mr. Justice Bruce).—*Times*, September 16.

The prisoner's own confession showed that he knew what he was doing and alleged a motive for the crime. The medical witnesses were allowed the freest license, and answered the very questions that had to be put to the jury.

Commissioners v. Shaw.

In November, 1896, Dr. Maudsley was ordered by the Lord Chancellor, at the instance of the Commissioners in Lunacy, to visit and report upon two persons who were residing with Mrs. Shaw in an unlicensed house at Elstree, and who were reported to be insane. Dr. Maudsley visited them accordingly, and reported that one of the persons (J. F.) was an imbecile, probably from birth, and was certifiable as a person of unsound mind; and that the other (D. V. S.) was suffering from chronic insanity, with hallucinations of hearing and delusions, and was certifiably insane. Dr.