

that in no branch of science had there been greater progress during the last generation than in the knowledge of the brain and the central nervous system. That wonderful web of delicate fibre and cells was being gradually unravelled and day by day a command was being obtained over the brain which was unknown when the Lunacy Acts were introduced. Though medical science had reduced other diseases, lunacy, if anything, was on the increase, and the main fault was in the present state of the lunacy laws which, if they did not hinder, certainly did not facilitate the application of science to the disease, especially in its early stages, in which it was most likely to be amenable to treatment. He proceeded to show the

necessity for changes in the present methods of notification and certification and strongly supported Sir John Tuke's demand for a complete inquiry. Dr. R. Farquharson, who followed, dwelt upon the superiority of the Scotch method of managing what are often described as "border cases" and declared that there ought to be special hospitals or special wards and special pathological institutions. In fact, there was a general recognition by the medical Members of the House that the time had come when insanity should be regarded as a disease like other diseases and that it should be investigated and treated by ordinary clinical methods. The Attorney-General, in rising to maintain on the part

of the Government that everything is for the best in this best of all possible worlds, "was not satisfied" that there was any proof of increase of insanity. He has, however, presented a Bill, which was read for the first time on Wednesday afternoon, having for its object the amendment of the Lunacy Acts. His somewhat unscientific attitude in his speech makes of his practical action a pleasant surprise.

REFERENCE

Lancet, 21 May 1904, 1438–1439.

Researched by Henry Rollin, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist, Horton Hospital, Epsom, Surrey

Corrigenda

Pathological Child Psychiatry and Medicalization of Childhood (book review). *BJP*, 184, 282. The book reviewer's name should read Louise Theodosiou.

Cognitive therapy for command hallucinations: randomised controlled trial. *BJP*, 184, 312–320. The last sentence under the subheading 'Reduction in compliance' (p. 318) should read: Perhaps more importantly, the risk factors for compliance in the

CTCH group had reduced markedly, particularly the perceived power of the voice, its omniscience and controllability, and the need to appease it (14% of the CTCH group were appeasing or complying *v.* 53% of the TAU group).