

too good an opportunity for cheap and sophistical oratory to be missed. The idea of specialists treating a 'physical cause!' Why they will claim equality with the general practitioner next. And yet, when the Toogoods of this world fall into ill-health, mental or physical, we find them knocking at the doors of those whose specialised skill and experience have brought them repute.

A NEW JOURNAL.

Our esteemed colleague Dr. Bresler is about to produce a new journal, entitled *Psychiatrische Wochenschrift*. Although there is already a large number of periodicals dealing with mental diseases in Germany, Dr. Bresler hopes to find a public for yet another. We are assured that, if energy and capability can command success, Dr. Bresler will make this new journal widely popular in our department of medicine.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM DR. ALDOUS CLINCH.

It is with the greatest diffidence that I make the following comment on the work of one who is held in high esteem, but it appears to me that by withholding it confusion and error might arise.

Dr. Ireland, in a paper in the *Journal of Mental Science* of January, 1898, in another in January, 1899, and in the new edition of his book on the *Mental Affections of Children*, frequently indicates how tracts in the nervous system have been worked out by studying the time of development of what he calls in some parts the *axis-bands*, and in other parts the *axis-cylinders*.

I have referred to Flechsig's original article in the *Neurologisches Centralblatt*, and find that the word translated as axis-band or axis-cylinder is "*markscheide*." The usual translation of this is medullary sheath, or white substance of Schwann.

The axis-cylinders are developed at a very early stage, whereas their separation and insulation by the medullary sheaths occurs at a very late stage of development, and is not complete till after birth. By the study of the medullation, and not by the study of the development, of the axis-cylinders, has Flechsig succeeded (to a disputed extent) in analysing that labyrinth of tracts, by means of which nervous impulses correlate our acts to our sensations.

FROM DR. IRELAND.

As Dr. Clinch has pointed out, in the *résumé* of Professor Flechsig's researches I have given a wrong translation of the German words *Mark* and *Markscheide*. I had hurriedly supposed that *Mark* was used for the axis-cylinder, and *Scheide* for the medullary sheath or myelin, and thus I slipped into a loose rendering of Flechsig's view of the import of the development of the nerve fibres, which I much regret, and which I now endeavour to correct.

Kölliker, in his *Microscopische Anatomie*, p. 6, thus defines these terms: the *Markscheide* or the *Nervenmark*, the *Myelin* or the *Myelin Scheide* of authors; by these names are indicated the contents of the dark-edged nerve-fibres lying between Schwann's sheath and the axis-cylinder. This myelin is distinguished by its softness and great changeableness, and has been the occasion of much difference of opinion.

Markhaltige-faser means a nerve-fibre which has got to that stage of maturity that the axis-cylinder is covered with the medullary sheath. Flechsig has succeeded in colouring the myelin with logwood, so that in his preparations of the brains of new-born children the ripe nerve bundles appear as blue tracts amongst

the uncoloured unripe strands, which are pellucid, like glass. The professor assumes that the naked axis-band is not yet capable of its function, and thus its clothing with the myelin furnishes him with a key to some of the functions of the brain. We are told in a *résumé* of a paper entitled *Nervenmark und Axencylinder*, by Professor Neumann, of Königsberg (*Neurologisches Centralblatt*, No. 15, 1898), that whilst Henle still holds that the axis-band and medullary sheath cannot be separated, and that the drop which can be pressed out of the cut fibre comes from its collective contents, Kölliker believes that this oozing matter consists solely of myelin. Neumann found, by careful pressure upon the fibres, and by colouring, that this ooze was made up from both the medullary sheath and the axis-cylinder.

THE NEW MASTER IN LUNACY.

The vacant appointment of Master in Lunacy has been given to William Ambrose, Q.C., whose long legal and other experience eminently qualifies him for the post. Mr. Ambrose has been a Queen's Counsel since 1874, and Attorney-General of the Duchy of Lancaster from 1895. His appointment to his present position renders vacant the Harrow Division of Middlesex, which he has represented in Parliament since the last General Election.

OBITUARY.

JOHN HAYBALL PAUL.

John Hayball Paul, M.D.St. Andrews, F.R.C.P.Edin., M.R.C.P.Lond.,
F.R.C.S.Eng., &c., &c.

The death of Dr. Paul in his eighty-fourth year removes from the roll of the Medico-Psychological Association one of the four remaining members who joined prior to 1855. He was for very many years the most regular attendant at our meetings, and when in 1895 he resigned the post of Treasurer, which he had held for thirty-one years, he received from the hands of the President for that year (Dr. David Nicolson) a handsome silver bowl and an illuminated address on behalf of the members, testifying to the affectionate regard in which he was held, and setting forth the many services so faithfully and so zealously rendered to the Association. Few, however, but those of the older members know how deeply indebted the Association is to Dr. Paul. In the days now long gone by, when money was scarce and members few, the Treasurer of the Association practically kept the Association and its Journal going by the generous expenditure of considerable sums which he never mentioned. But it was then well known when he rose at the Annual Meetings to present his balance sheet that the satisfactory accounts he used to render showing that income and expenditure were so well balanced were to some extent due to his taking his own money out of one pocket and putting it into the pocket of the Association. After thirty-one years' service, when he retired from office, he was deeply gratified when, by the unanimous voice of the members, he was elected Emeritus Treasurer, so that his name was retained on the list of officers of the Association. Dr. Paul was born in the Isle of Wight on January 1st, 1816, and he commenced his professional career in the usual way then, by becoming apprenticed to a medical man, Mr. Newington, a surgeon who practised in Spital Square, E.C. He completed his medical curriculum at Westminster and St. Bartholomew's, qualifying as M.R.C.S. in 1840, and L.S.A. in 1845. In 1854 he graduated M.D. St. Andrews. In 1888 he was elected F.R.C.P.Edin.; and in 1859 he took the M.R.C.P.Lond. and F.R.C.S.Eng. Dr. Paul opened Camberwell House Asylum in 1846, and continued his connection with that institution until his death, which occurred on January 29th last, and he was buried in Nor-