

PRICE, ARTHUR, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; Birmingham.

SMYTH, WILLIAM JOHNSON, M.B., C.M.Edin.; Essex County Asylum.

WICKHAM, GILBERT HENRY, B.A.Camb., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; Bethlem Hospital.

WILLIAMS, D. J.; London.

The following are the written questions asked at the Pass Examination:—

Examiners:

Dr. BLANDFORD and Dr. RAYNER.

Not more than Four of these Questions need be answered.

1. In what forms of insanity is suicide to be feared? What methods are chiefly adopted by patients, and what are the chief precautions to be taken?
2. What is meant by moral insanity? Give a case or cases from your experience.
3. What are the chief points to be observed in the examination of a person supposed to be insane? What facts would justify your signing or refusing to sign a certificate of insanity?
4. What treatment, regimenal, dietetic and medicinal, would you adopt in a case of stuporous insanity?
5. What are the post-mortem appearances in the brain of persons dying from acute melancholia?
6. What are the most common symptomatic prodromata of General Paralysis of the Insane, what conditions give them special significance, and how should such cases be treated?

The next examination will take place in July. For particulars apply to Dr. Fletcher Beach, Darenth Asylum, Dartford, Kent. For information respecting the Scotch and Irish examinations apply to Dr. Urquhart, James Murray Royal Asylum, Perth, Scotland; Dr. Conolly Norman, Richmond Asylum, Dublin, Ireland.

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Obituary.

DR. CARL WESTPHAL.

On January 27, died at Constance, after a long and suffering illness, the Geheimrath, Professor Westphal.

His death is a heavy loss to science. Untiringly to his last moment has he laboured and worked, a prominent teacher of the University, an everywhere known, sought after, and esteemed physician, a true, never resting inquirer. Courageously has he continued on the field of battle until paralyzed by the long threatened sickness in body and mind. His name has an honoured sound not only in the ranks of his own department in his narrow circle of work, but far beyond the limits of his Fatherland has it extended. His great achievements will live in the kingdom of knowledge.

Carl Friedrich Westphal was born on the 23rd of March, 1833, the son of a well-known Berlin physician.

He studied from the year 1851 in Berlin, Heidelberg, and Zürich. In 1856 he passed the States examination. Returning from a scientific journey to Paris and Vienna, he was in 1858 appointed Assistant Physician in the department for small-pox at the Charité. After six months, he exchanged this position for that of an assistant physician in the section for insanity. In the year 1861 he qualified himself as "Docent" in psychology in the Berlin University, and from 1862 lectured with clinical instruction. Circumstances, however, induced him in 1868 to quit this department for a short time and devote himself to pure medicine. After the death of Griesinger, in 1869, he was appointed Professor Extraordinary and Directing Physician to the section for mental and nervous disorders. In 1871 he added to these two clinics an ambulance clinique for nervous patients. In 1874 he obtained his appointment as ordinary professor, and became a member of the Scientific Deputation of Public Medicine.

Westphal became a reformer in German psychiatry for the treatment of

mental disorders. The commencement of his psychological career happened at a time when the strait-waistcoat, and the whole restraint system, was in force in the asylums. He saw that this was not the right method of treatment, and understood how to enforce his thoughts by practical action. Not the least factor in exciting enthusiasm was the reading of Conolly's works.

With the greatest interest and lively zeal he followed the report of the introduction of the non-restraint system from England into Germany. What was regarded by many as an illusion, appeared to him as incontrovertible facts. A lengthened residence in England for the study of the practical care of the insane fully convinced him of the practicability of non-restraint. Repeatedly, and with pleasure, had he dwelt in this land in order to study the progress of the treatment of the insane. With the more prominent of the English and Scottish alienists—I only mention Dr. Lockhart Robertson, Dr. Hack Tuke, Dr. Maudsley, Dr. Sibbald, Dr. Savage—was he drawn into close relationship. He was an Honorary Member of the Medico-Psychological Association.

Space will not permit an extended enumeration of the scientific works and discoveries of the deceased. Of the important researches, I name the most important when I mention his Researches into the Diseases of the Cord in Progressive Paralysis, on Epilepsy, his observations and reflections on Paranoia, Agoraphobia, Imperative Conceptions, his contributions to the Symptomatology and Pathological Anatomy of Tabes-Dorsalis, among which the discovery of Westphal's symptom (with the pathological and anatomical basis thereof) has proved of the highest importance, his researches into the combined disorders of the spinal cord, the formation of vacuoles, pseudo-sclerosis, Thomsen's disease, etc., etc.

In later years it was especially the various forms of ophthalmoplegia which claimed his interest, and by these studies he not only advanced, to a very important extent, the pathology of this affection, but he also made most valuable discoveries in the department of brain-anatomy. All his works were characterized by clearness and precision of observation; not speculation and hypothesis, but soundness and fact were the signs of his mental products.

These characteristics which adorned the investigator and savant made Westphal also one of the most prominent teachers. Not to him was granted the gift of sparkling diction; he worked through convincing truthfulness and through the earnestness of his speech. Called to be the first representative of a department, which now first became a branch of instruction, he had brought it to the highest pitch of excellence, and aroused for it through the living word, a real enthusiasm, and true devotion for the same. A band of students have proceeded from his school who work as teachers in the universities and superintendents of asylums.

To him who stood near this distinguished physician was it granted to realize the superior qualities of the man. These qualities came out most brilliantly in the bosom of his family. Truth and uprightness—these were the springs of his thought and action. These at an early period made the strength of his character. With simple unselfish goodwill he met those who came to him seeking advice and help.

Deeply to be lamented is the fate of him who has left us, to whom a malady, long suspected by himself, tortured the last years of his existence. Never will he be forgotten by his colleagues, friends, and admirers.

Imperishable will his name live in the realm of science.—E. SIEMERLING.

DR. CHARLES H. NICHOLS.

It is so recently that this greatly esteemed and accomplished American physician visited England* and met so many of his British *confères* that the intelligence of his removal by death from the work in which he was busily engaged comes to his friends with peculiarly vivid regret. No one who saw him at the Leeds meeting of the British Medical Association could avoid feeling

* In addition to his visits to the asylums of Great Britain and Ireland, he inspected some of the most important on the Continent.