

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—SHEFFIELD 1879.

SECTION—BIOLOGY.

SUB-SECTION—ANTHROPOLOGY.

The Cagots. By D. Hack Tuke, M.D. (London). The author detailed the results of a visit to the Pyrenees to obtain information on the origin and character of the Cagots, and strenuously opposed the prevalent notion that they are, or ever were, Cretins or goitrous. He also dissented from the opinion that they were the descendants of the Goths, from whom their name has been supposed to be derived ("dog of a Goth"). He found that the present representatives of these proscribed people, are recognised as such by tradition, and not by any defect or racial distinction. He concluded that while the solution of the problem was attended by much difficulty, the strong probability is that although nothing like leprosy has for long affected the Cagots, they were originally lepers, or the subjects of leucoderma; the form of the leprosy in the one case, and the simple absence of pigmentation in the other, accounting for their being regarded as in some respects different from ordinary lepers, though almost equally shunned. Many were, no doubt, falsely suspected of leprosy in consequence of some slight skin affection; others again, in later centuries, were members of families in whom the disease had at last died out. The writer particularly referred to the researches of the late M. de Rochas on this question.

AFTER-CARE OF CONVALESCENTS.

A Meeting was held on the 5th June, 1879, at the house of Dr. Bucknill, 39, Wimpole Street, to consider the subject of the "After-care of Poor and Friendless Female Convalescents on leaving Asylums for the Insane."

There were present Dr. and Mrs. Bucknill, Miss Cons, Dr. Lockhart Robertson, Dr. D. Hack Tuke, Mr. W. G. Marshall, Dr. Harrington Tuke, Rev. Hasloch Potter, Rev. G. H. Lee, and Rev. H. Hawkins.

A paper on the above-named subject was read by Rev. H. HAWKINS, and an interesting discussion took place.

It was moved by Dr. LOCKHART ROBERTSON, and seconded by Dr. HACK TUKE, that this meeting do form itself into an Association. The names of Dr. S. Duckworth Williams, and of Dr. Savage, were, at Dr. Robertson's request, added to those already given.

It was moved by Dr. ROBERTSON, and seconded by Mr. W. G. MARSHALL, that Dr. Bucknill be invited to take the office of President.

Also moved by Dr. HARRINGTON TUKE, and seconded by Dr. BUCKNILL, that the Rev. H. Hawkins take the office of Secretary.

These resolutions were unanimously carried.

The Secretary was instructed to communicate with members and others likely to take an interest in the subject, and, subsequently, to communicate with the President, with the view of calling another meeting.

On the 29th July a meeting of ladies, to consider the same subject, was held at 86, Portland Place, by the kind permission of Mrs. Müller. About fifteen ladies were present, and Miss Cons, of 17, Grittleton Road, W., consented to accept, temporarily, the office of Secretary. The paper on "After-care," referred to above, is printed in the present number of the Journal. (See Original Articles, No. 6.)