

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