

involved in their destruction. All Broca's cases on which he has founded his theory, are distinctly cases of Ataxic Aphasia. His patients had lost the faculty of speech and had not lost the memory of words. This woman had the faculty of speech intact, but had forgotten certain words. On this ground we argued that Broca was wrong in his localization.

If Amnesia in this case was the result of the lesion, it is a singularly important one, as it tends to bring the subject to a very fine point. Be it remembered that certain nouns were the only words this woman had forgotten; all other parts of speech were perfect, therefore, if the lesion and the loss of power over their use were cause and effect, we would be in a position to argue that the power of employing nouns lay in this neighbourhood, and that the use of the more complicated parts of speech lay elsewhere. But we cannot believe in any primary connection between the symptoms and the lesion; this imperfection increased gradually with the loss of general intellect. The lesion had existed for eleven years, but when we first knew her the amnesia was very slight, and we cannot suppose that the lesion had altered for many years.

If Dr. Wilks were to advance the theory of the right side of the brain having taken up the function of the left in the case, supposing it to be correct, the normal sequence in the acquirement of language must have been curiously reversed, for, as above stated, substantives which are, under ordinary circumstances, the first words acquired, were the only parts of speech absent. This fact disproves any such hypothesis.

If, inadvertently, we did not give Dr. Robertson, of Glasgow, full credit for his labours on Aphasia, we beg to apologise, but we must add we see nothing in his letter to change our opinion of the deductions the case causes us to draw in reference to his theory.

We are, &c.,

J. BATTY TUKE, M.D., &c.

JOHN FRASEE, M.D., &c.

Fife and Kinross Asylum, Cupar,
3rd September, 1872.

PENSIONS TO ATTENDANTS.

To the Editor of the Journal of Mental Science.

SIR,—In the early part of last year I wrote to the "Lancet," suggesting the propriety of a Pension Fund being formed for the benefit of attendants in Scotch Asylums. I have thought over the matter since, and feel even more convinced than I did then that the institution of such a fund is both practicable and desirable.

I believe that if all the asylums and lunatic wards of poor houses would combine and agree to pay 10s. a head per annum for every attendant in the service, quite sufficient funds would be provided to meet the demand.

The annual payments ought to go on, I think, accumulating for ten years before any pension be granted. No one would be entitled to participate in the fund under 50 years of age, and who had not been ten years in the service. £15 might be given for ten years' service, £20 for fifteen years, and £25 for twenty years. The amount of pension, however, is a matter which could be easily arranged after the formation of the fund. I would be inclined to allow the females to participate at the age of 45, as being sooner aged than men.

The outlay on the part of asylums would be but little on the whole, and the benefits, I think, would be great.

VOL. XVIII.

81

We cannot expect to keep good attendants as they are at present paid, when such asylums as Broadmoor and the Coppice, Nottingham, pay £30 for male, and £20 for female attendants at the very beginning of their services.

Wages have risen greatly in every trade, and unless we are prepared to take the off-scourings of society to look after and nurse our insane poor, we must move with the times. In no better way, I venture to think, can we do so than by offering pensions for long and faithful services.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS HOWDEN, M.D

Haddington District Asylum,
June 5, 1872.

Rewards to Attendants.

The following letter has been addressed by Dr. Mitchell to Superintendents of Asylums:—

SIR,—As Morisonian Lecturer on Insanity to the Royal College of Physicians, it falls to me this year to dispose of three prizes, of £3 each, for meritorious attendance on the Insane. These prizes are derived from a fund left by Sir Alexander Morison, for that purpose.

I have also to announce that I am in a position to add to the Morison prizes four others—one of £3, and three of £2 each.

There will thus be seven prizes in all to be awarded.

I shall be obliged by your bringing this matter under the notice of the Attendants of your Establishment, so that those may compete who think their services give them a claim.

Applications, with Testimonials, should be addressed to me, at the Physicians' Hall, Edinburgh, on or before the 1st of October.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR MITCHELL.

Books, Pamphlets, &c., received for Review, 1872.

1. Wilhelm Griesinger's *gesammelte Abhandlungen*. Two volumes. Berlin, 1872. *See Part II. Reviews.*
2. *Lectures on the Psychology of Thought and Action, Comparative and Human.* By W. D. Wilson, D.D., L.H.D. Ithaca, N.Y., 1871. *See Part II. Reviews.*
3. *On the Relation between Science and Religion.* By George Combe. Fifth Edition. Machlachlan and Stewart. 1872. *See Part II. Reviews.*
4. *On Cerebric and other Diseases of the Brain.* By Charles Elam, M.D. London: J. and A. C. Churchill. 1872.

This work, the design of which is to bring into notice more prominently than has been done heretofore the distinctive phenomena of Inflammation of the Substance of the Brain Tissue, will be reviewed in our next number.