

of the Atlantic, and we refer our readers to *The British Medical Journal* for details.

THE NOSE AND SEXUAL APPARATUS.

Dr. J. N. MACKENZIE, of Baltimore, read a paper in the Laryngology Section on the physiological and pathological relations between the nose and the sexual apparatus of man. He first gave the reasons which led him to conclude that there is an intimate physiological relationship between these organs, specially insisting on the occasional phenomena connected with menstruation, pregnancy, etc. Dr. Mackenzie alluded to the facts of vicarious nasal menstruation, sympathetic irritation of the nasal erectile tissues during the sexual act, and the probability of congestion of the nasal passages owing to abuse of the sexual functions. In the discussion following cases of masturbation cured by the removal of adenoids were referred to. Unfortunately no psychiatrist seemed to have been present to confirm the relationship from his point of view. It is undoubted that abnormal conditions of the nose and hallucination of the sense of smell constantly occur in cases of insanity connected with excessive masturbation.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS AT MOSCOW.

SECTION VII.—NERVOUS AND MENTAL MALADIES.

Whether an International Congress brings out the best work of the best men may be questioned, but it is beyond question that in a city so full of interest as Moscow foreign visitors are apt to sacrifice sections to sight-seeing.

Section VII. was one of the busiest and best attended of all the fifteen sections into which the Congress was divided, and not a few communications were left unread. Many nationalities were found at its meetings, and Honorary Presidents of Section were courteously appointed from each, Dr. Yellowlees being chosen to represent Great Britain. As the section included both nervous and mental maladies the field was very wide and the subjects very varied and very mixed: Obsessions and Fixed Ideas, Juvenile Dementia, Pathology of the Nerve-cell, Hypnotism and its Legal Relations, Tabes Dorsalis, Polyneuritis, Inherited Neuroses and Degeneration, Transitory Alcoholic Mania, Treatment by Alternations of Temperature, etc. Dr. Shuttleworth, of London, Dr. Sutherland, of Edinburgh, and Dr. Robertson, of Glasgow were the only readers of papers from this country.

The cordiality with which their foreign *confrères* were welcomed and feted by the neurologists and alienists of Moscow can never be forgotten by them, and it was fitly crowned by a poetic and beautiful compliment at the close of the Congress, when representative foreigners from various lands were personally requested by President Korsakov to plant a tree in the grounds of the Psychiatric Clinique in order to form a group which should be known in after years as "The Grove of the Congress."

The Asylum of Moscow and this Clinique naturally attracted the interest of the strangers. The former—called *Hôpital de Préobragenskoïé*—has been enlarged and modernised in recent years. Although within the city limits, it is surrounded by ample grounds. Its wards are not up to our ideas of comfort, but non-restraint is practised as far as possible, and in part of the building "open doors" are the rule. The medical and scientific work receives great attention, and, indeed, could not fail to do so, for the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Constantincwsky, has four resident Assistant Medical Officers and four others non-resident to aid him in the care and treatment of 400 patients. The proportion of attendants is very large—at least 1 to 4—although many of the lunatics are chronic cases. The explanation given was that quantity had to make up for quality. Probably the defective

education so universal among the lower classes in Russia makes our methods of training nurses impossible.

The clinics and special laboratories attached to the University of Moscow were a wonder, a revelation, and a reproof to many of the visitors who had deemed Russia behind the age. In the possession and in the most complete equipment of these clinics and institutes, in all departments of medical science, and numbering at least a score, Russia is far ahead of ourselves; though it may well be doubted whether our patients would agree to the methods and arrangements which obtain there. All these clinics are associated with the University, and the teachers are on the University staff. The patients reside in the clinics only while the University is in session and requires clinical material for teaching: they are sent away at the close of the session either to their homes or to some other hospital or asylum.

The Psychiatric Clinique is a complete cure-asylum for fifty patients—thirty men, twenty women—standing in its own ample and well-wooded grounds, and equipped in the most complete manner with all the newest and best instruments and appliances for the investigation and treatment of brain diseases. It is the kind of cure-asylum which should be possessed by the large cities of our own land (except that ours should be three or four times larger), where recent cases could be received and every possible means used for their recovery before passing them on to larger home-asylums; in these, recovery, if attained, would be more tedious, and due more to occupation and moral discipline than to direct medical treatment.

It must be regretfully confessed that the general impression left by the work of the section was that much progress was being made in the investigation and knowledge of disease and very, very little in its treatment. This must be true in all departments of applied medicine until we gain a more perfect knowledge which shall give us, if not the power of curing disease, the power to avert its occurrence or to modify its course. The knowledge which brings depression to day will grow greater soon and bring blessing to men.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT TORONTO.

Sir William Turner's address to the Anthropological Section was of great general interest and of special interest to ourselves.

On cranial capacity, he arrived at the conclusions that this was greater in the European than in the savage, that the range of variation was also greater, that few male savage crania reached the European mean (1,500 c.c.), and that there is less difference between male and female crania in savages than in Europeans.

Flechsig's recent observations and conclusions were very carefully summarised and commented on. Sir William points out that the problems they suggest are "the proportion which the *association centres* bear to the other centres, both in mammals and in man; the period of the development of the *association fibres*, in comparison with that of the motor and sensory fibres in different animals; and, if possible, to obtain a comparison in these respects between the brains of savages and those of men of higher order of intelligence."

Flechsig's observations are described in this number of our Journal, and their importance is testified by the expectation of progress of which these problems give promise.

THE MORISON LECTURES.

Dr. Alexander Morison delivered the Morison Lectures for the present year in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, during the