

thirteen years previously she had received a blow of the fist from her first husband under the left ear; this was followed by pain and swelling of the part, and it at first felt "as if the kernels of her ears were down," and was accompanied with great stiffness of the neck. The swelling just below the ear went on increasing, and shortly attained the size of an orange. In this condition she went into King's College Hospital, where she remained six weeks, and submitted to some operation by Mr. Fergusson, and pointed to the cicatrix, now removed to such a distance below the lobe of the ear, that it would have been hard to believe or understand how any operation had been practised so high in the neck as the part she described.

I requested the patient to call upon and allow Mr. Fergusson to examine the tumour. That gentleman says he has a tolerable recollection of her case. At the time, when opened, it was only a thin cyst, and resembled others that he had seen in this respect—namely, that it seemed a sort of "well-spring" of arterial blood. Mr. Fergusson, in kindly writing to me, adds: "I consider it a solid and vascular tumour, which should not be meddled with." Irrespective of its having been regarded as hypertrophy of the thyroid body,—at first glance a pardonable mistake,—the swelling is remarkable from its history; from the alteration which in size, shape, and consistence, during this lapse of time, has taken place in it; and the change of situation which the cicatrix has undergone, it having travelled so low down from its original situation.

The above case of disfiguring pendulous tumour justifies the mention made in a preceding paper of certain points which might facilitate the diagnosis of tumours situate in front of the throat.

A certain degree of beauty is attributed by the uneducated and unrefined to a prominent fullness of the front of the neck. Amongst the ancient busts it is rare to find instances in which there appears any intumescence confined to the immediate region of the thyroid body, or any enlargement such as that to which the Greek medical writers restricted, as we do, the use of the word *bronchocele*. Only in the well-authenticated bust of Julius Cæsar, in the British Museum, have I noticed any enlargement in this situation. Here there is a marked central projection below the larynx, precisely in the situation of the isthmus. On pointing out this feature to my friend, Professor Owen, he at once admitted the peculiarity which characterizes, I believe, the medals of the great Roman Emperor.

A bust exists of the luxurious and gluttonous Emperor Vitellius, in which there is an enlargement in the throat, but evidently proceeding from obesity. One or two instances likewise may be seen of busts of fauns and satyrs where the pendulous appendages of the goat's neck are represented. Artists do not consider a great fullness there as a type of beauty; for even with the head bent downwards and forwards there ought to be a certain degree of flatness by which the course of the lower jaw bone may be traced. It is the successful treatment of flatnesses, in artistic phrase, which contributes to the subtleties of fine discriminative form in sculpture; and the judicious treatment of these proves the accomplished artist. Wherever a general enlargement occurs, it is mostly looked upon as a mark of sensuality, and, by giving a preponderance to the lower part, takes away from, and interferes considerably with, the intellectual appearance of the head, as shown in several familiar instances of modern busts.

(To be continued.)

ON THE CONDITION OF THE MOUTH IN IDIOCY.

By J. LANGDON H. DOWN, M.D. LOND.,

ASSISTANT-PHYSICIAN AND LECTURER ON COMPARATIVE ANATOMY AT
THE LONDON HOSPITAL;
PHYSICIAN TO THE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, EARLSWOOD.

THE opinion which has been formed, both in and out of the profession, in reference to idiocy, has arisen more from the representations of poets and romance-writers than from the deductions of rigid observation. The popular novelist, in this as in other cases, seizes on the characteristics of some exaggerated specimen, portrays them by the aid of a vivid imagination, and henceforth the exaggeration becomes the type of a species in the minds of men. The term idiot has thus become synonymous with the most degraded condition of humanity only—with a creature incapable of being influenced by moral or physical treatment, and separated by an immense gulf from the remainder of mankind. It has arisen, in no small degree,

from the existence of this opinion, that until within a comparatively recent period, so few efforts have been made to ameliorate the condition of idiots. In too many cases they have been neglected or allowed to be influenced for evil, regardless of the fact that they might be equally impressed for good. Independently of the benefit that can be effected for these unfortunate sufferers, the benevolent efforts on their behalf have furnished an opportunity for an investigation into their physical and psychical life before unattainable.

The condition of the idiot is not simply one of mental alienation. It frequently presents also grave physical deterioration; and this physical alteration is as much a test of idiocy as is the low condition of mental power. In a community such as that of the Earlswood Asylum, there is to be found every variety of imbecile mind. In fact, just as in the outer world there is a graduated series from the most commonplace intellects,—who are "the hewers of wood and drawers of water,"—up to the giant minds that leave their impress on the age in which they live; so is there amongst an imbecile population a gradual shading in an inverse direction—from the youth who might, if he had property, become the subject of inquiry before a Master in Lunacy, to one who, with every means of communication with the external world, except feeling, closed, vegetates in impenetrable mist. In such a community one can perceive the grades of physical condition accompanying the mental phases; and a study of the physical anomalies becomes as interesting and important as that of the psychological state. When contemplating so large a number as that which Earlswood shelters, one is able to set some of the members aside into natural groups, by simple reference to their physical state, and to predicate from that state what will be their probable future mental improvement.

There is scarcely an organ in the body but may be found gravely altered in idiots: the circulation and respiration are abnormal; the skin exhibits perturbed functions; defective innervation, lesions of motility and nutrition, are abundantly met with; the bodily conformation is often of an aberrant kind. Regard therefore should be paid, in all cases of diagnosis of idiocy, to the physical condition as confirmatory of any opinion based on purely psychological data. It is in this way one is enabled to differentiate an idiot from a simply backward or ill-regulated child.

It is from the conviction of the importance of a study of the physiological manifestations of idiocy, that I have been induced to devote no small portion of time to an investigation into the structure and functions of the various organs *seriatim* amongst idiots and imbeciles. I purpose in the present paper giving some of the results of my observations of the feeble-minded, in reference to the condition and conformation of their mouths. Characteristic as is this region of various transitory mental phases amongst the sane, does it bear the permanent impress of a state in which the mind has failed in attaining its normal condition? If so, what is the nature of the impress? Does any value attach to the conformation of the mouth as confirmatory or otherwise of a state of mental incapacity? These are some of the questions we have to solve.

I may premise that these observations have been made during the past year, without reference to any recent legal inquiry, and extend over 200 cases, which have been taken, without any special selection, from a larger number. Not one on the list would in his present condition be able to manage his own affairs, or be legally held to be responsible. Many of them, however, are susceptible of considerable culture, are affected by the amenities of life, write letters to their friends, make small purchases, and form friendships. Several perform mechanical work with system and order. One, although possessing very little judgment, has been taught French and Latin, and reads these languages as well as ordinary schoolboys. Some few possess extraordinary memories and special aptitudes. 146 were males, and 54 females. Their ages ranged from 7 to 36, and the following table gives the numbers at each age last birthday:—

No.	Age.	No.	Age.	No.	Age.
2	at 7	14	at 16	5	at 25
4	" 8	18	" 17	1	" 26
2	" 9	10	" 18	3	" 27
4	" 10	14	" 19	2	" 28
10	" 11	18	" 20	1	" 29
13	" 12	7	" 21	3	" 30
11	" 13	12	" 22	2	" 33
12	" 14	9	" 23	1	" 34
17	" 15	3	" 24	2	" 36

Or ranged in decennial periods—below 10 years, 8; from 10 to 19 inclusive, 123; from 20 to 29, 61; from 30 to 39, 8.

Palate.—Amongst the 200 cases included in this inquiry, 82 possessed palates inordinately arched, and with this increased arching were noticed various abnormalities. In some the palate was unsymmetrical, the two sides having different degrees of concavity, or one side plane, and the other concave. In 34 the palates were excessively arched, approximating to the appearance of the roof of a house, and, with this extreme angularity, was great narrowness. Excessive arching of the palate occurred, therefore, in 58 per cent. Excessive flattening of the palate was observed in 4 cases. In 34 cases, or 17 per cent., the palate had a very prominent antero-posterior ridge or keel, corresponding to the line of approximation of the palatal bones. In 7 the palate bones did not meet, leaving a sulcus between them, the mucous membrane being, however, continuous. There was no instance of the ordinary cleft palate, and I may remark that in an examination of nearly 600 idiots, I have failed in meeting with an example of that deformity. In several the hard palate extended but a short distance posteriorly, from defect of the palatal process of the superior maxillary bone and entire absence of the palatal process of the palate bone, and in all these cases the velum palati was unusually flaccid. In the majority of cases there was marked narrowness of the palate. The following table represents the measurements in 24ths of an inch of the space between the posterior bicuspid teeth of opposite sides:—

No.	Distance. In.	No.	Distance. In.	No.	Distance. In.
2	at $\frac{1}{24}$	...	11	at $\frac{2}{24}$	...
1	" $\frac{1}{24}$	...	24	" 1	...
3	" $\frac{1}{24}$	...	37	" $1\frac{1}{24}$	...
2	" $\frac{2}{24}$	...	25	" $1\frac{2}{24}$	...
13	" $\frac{2}{24}$	...	23	" $1\frac{3}{24}$	...
10	" $\frac{2}{24}$	...	17	" $1\frac{4}{24}$	...
			13	at $1\frac{5}{24}$	
			9	" $1\frac{6}{24}$	
			1	" $1\frac{7}{24}$	
			5	" $1\frac{8}{24}$	
			3	" $1\frac{9}{24}$	
			1	" $1\frac{10}{24}$	

It will be observed that 33 per cent. do not exceed 1 inch, and that 62 per cent., while being more than 1 inch, do not exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; whereas the normal average has been stated to be $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. It is worthy of notice that these numbers hold no direct relation to the age or stature of the patients examined. Thus, in a youth 22 years of age and 6 ft. 1 in. in height, so narrow is the palate that there is only $1\frac{1}{24}$ inch between the bicuspid teeth, and only $\frac{1}{24}$ inch between the opposite gums at their widest interval. The lowest measurements occurred in a boy and girl, the boy 12 and the girl 13 years of age. Neither is there a direct relation between the width of the palate and the cranial capacity; for in a microcephal, whose palate was $\frac{3}{24}$ inch wide, the internal canthi of the eyes were $\frac{3}{24}$ inch distant from one another; while in a macrocephal whose palate was $\frac{3}{24}$ inch wide, the distance between the internal canthi amounted to 2 inches.

Teeth.—The principal characteristics of the teeth in idiots are, that the period of the first dentition is delayed, the second dentition considerably postponed, and that they undergo very general and rapid decay. In many cases the anterior surface of the incisors presents a honeycombed appearance, but in no one instance have I observed those special characters which have been well shown by Mr. Hutchinson to be significant of congenital syphilis. In a large number of cases they are developed irregularly, are crowded, and the canine occupy a different plane from the other teeth,—all these irregularities resulting from the imperfect development of the superior maxillary bone. In 6 cases, or 3 per cent., the upper incisors projected to such an extreme degree as to produce grave deformity. In 7 cases the teeth of the lower jaw were in advance of those of the upper.

Tongue.—The most prevailing character noticeable in the tongue of idiots is the hypertrophy of the fungiform papillæ. Undue prominence of the papillæ was observed in 101 instances. In several there is a marked want of co-ordination in the movements of the tongue, so that the patient, although endeavouring to comply with the request, is unable to protrude it. This condition is usually associated with an absence of general co-ordinated movements, and in the improvement which is effected by treatment it is usually the most persistent derangement of motility. In 16 cases the tongue presented a soddened appearance, and exhibited deep transverse furrows on its dorsal surface; in all these patients one is able to trace a marked physiological and psychological agreement, and so much do they resemble one another in these respects that they might readily be taken for members of the same family. Inordinate size occurred in 12 instances, and in almost every case was associated with defective power of articulation. In 2 the tongue was unusually long. 33 were mute; 16 semi-mute. In 83 the

speech was indistinct. In 62 the speech was fair. Stammering was observed in 4.

Tonsils.—One cause of the peculiar speech prevailing among idiots is the condition of the tonsils. These observations for the most part were made in the summer, when the tonsils were not likely to be rendered worse than their usual condition by climatic influences. In 30 instances they were injected, in 17 slightly enlarged, in 79 considerably enlarged, and in 5 so much increased in size as to interfere with deglutition and respiration.

Mucous membrane, &c.—Besides the injection of the mucous membrane of the tonsils which has been noticed, other regions of the oral cavity are liable to this condition. The velum palati, uvula, and pillars of the pharynx were found to be thus characterized in 27 instances. The posterior wall of the pharynx was observed to be marked by considerable vascular injection in 33 cases, and in 6 the mucous membrane had assumed a granular appearance. The buccal and labial glands were generally hypertrophied, and the salivary glands were frequently enlarged. In 11 instances the sublingual gland was greatly enlarged. The uvula was elongated in 14 cases, bifid in 2, very short in 1, and entirely absent in 1. The lips were hypertrophied in 2. In 1 case only were the gums noticed to be swollen and tumid, a circumstance arising probably from the abundant supply of fresh vegetables with which the patients are provided.

Slavering.—The flow of saliva from the mouth is universally associated in the popular mind with the condition of idiocy. The slaverling may vary in degree. It may occur only at periods of excitement, and at meal times, or with scarcely any intermission throughout the day, producing in severe cases excoriation of the chin. Amongst 325 cases which I have examined, I find 72, or 22 per cent., in which this habit was noticed. Of these, 28 slaver to a slight extent, 17 rather more so, and 26 in an aggravated degree. This peculiarity depends, I believe, on two or three causes—1st, the increased secretion of saliva; 2nd, the deformed condition of the mouth; 3rd, the want of co-ordinated movements in the muscles of the tongue; and 4th, the absence of tonicities in the labial muscles. Seeing that slaverling exists in 22 per cent. of imbeciles, the question may arise—Is it confined to this section of the community? I am not prepared to say that it is never associated with mental vigour; but I believe that, excluding childhood, old age, disease of the mouth and neural lesions, slaverling is very rarely unconnected with mental imbecility. Moreover, I have examined with reference to this question 1000 persons, who are doing the everyday work of the world, without meeting with a single example.

Summary.—We have thus seen that idiocy is not simply a cerebral lesion; that it carries with it marked physical deviations, of which I have shown conspicuous examples in the mouth; narrowed, arched, and unsymmetrical palates; tardily developed, irregular, and rapidly decaying teeth; a hyperæmic condition of the mucous membrane and glands; elongated uvulas and hypertrophied tonsils; large, enervated, and rugous tongues, deficient in co-ordinated movements and in their special function; saliva secreted inordinately, and retained incontinently. Such are some of the characteristics of a class, in which mental vigour is in abeyance, which should be taken in connexion with the psychological state in diagnosis, and inculcate the doctrine, that the psychical condition of these unfortunates should be specially sought to be ameliorated by an improvement of their physical condition.

Earlswood, Redhill, Jan. 1862.

EPITHELIAL CANCER ON THE TONGUE SUCCESSFULLY REMOVED BY EXCISION.

By E. WILLIAMS, M.D., Bracknell.

THE following case, which may be worthy of record in the pages of THE LANCET, occurred in my practice lately:—

John H—, a single man, aged fifty, applied to me suffering from a sore-throat, as he supposed, and felt as if he could not live through the night from suffocation. On examination, I found a large fleshy mass attached to the posterior part of the tongue, and extending quite into the larynx, which had slightly commenced ulcerating. I at once concluded that this must be "epithelioma."

From this man's previous history I found that he had felt as if something had been attached to the tongue, that he had had