

ity rapidly disappeared when produced under circumstances of this kind. She soon managed to regain her speech, and in a short time admitted that the whole narrative had been developed out of her inner consciousness. Eccentricity in relatives is ever strongly presumptive of self-deception, when a female makes any statement or charges of ill-treatment of any kind. The constant fear of assassination, especially if based on reasonable grounds, is particularly liable to predispose nervous or excitable subjects to extraordinary delusions of this kind. The alleged attempt at assassination in the case of Lady Florence Dixie by Fenians has in all probability this origin. The explanation given of these delusions was advanced in this JOURNAL, July, 1880.

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EXECUTIONS OF LUNATICS, AND MURDERS.—*Gaillard's Medical Journal* (March 31, 1883) says, commenting editorially on this subject: "The opinion is very generally expressed that the execution of lunatics has a tendency to deter other lunatics from murder. From an alienistic stand-point this cannot be defended, since every lunatic looks upon himself as the centre of the universe, and his act as *sui generis*. Certain statistics recently collected by Dr. Guy (*Journal of Mental Science*, July, 1882) still further show the fallacy of such opinions. The year after the execution of Bellingham, an admitted lunatic, the number of murders was double what it had been previously, and many of these were committed by lunatics. The same phenomenon was observed for three succeeding years. On the other hand, the acquittal of two lunatics did not have any effect in increasing the number of murders. Executions of lunatics have incited other lunatics to commit murder as an indirect means of committing suicide."

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ALTERNATION, PERIODICITY, AND RELAPSE IN MENTAL DISEASE.—Dr. T. S. Clouston (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, July, 1882) has recently discussed at length this question, more especially in relation to the subject, so much mooted at present, of circular insanity. He says that a careful clinical study of mental diseases reveals the fact that there exists in by far the majority of all the acute cases, at some time or other, in some form or degree, in the course of the disease, a tendency to alternation, periodicity of symptoms, remissions, or recurring relapses. Of the three hundred and thirty-eight cases of mental disease admitted to Morning-side Asylum in 1881—one hundred and eighty-one of them being cases of mania, and one hundred and twenty-nine of melancholia, the rest being general paralysis, dementia, etc.—there was in eighty-one of the female cases, or forty-six per cent. in that sex, and in sixty-seven of the men, or forty per cent. of that sex, relapse, alternation, or periodicity of symptoms in the course of their diseases. Many of the three hundred and thirty-eight admissions were chronic on admission, so that of the recent cases the decided