

FAMILY CARE OF THE INSANE.—Dr. H. R. Stedman (Sixth Annual Report Mass. State Board of Charity) says: "1. A large proportion of these patients do not require asylum treatment, who, nevertheless, cannot for various reasons be suitably provided for among their relatives or friends. 2. Experience, both in this country and abroad, justifies the belief that suitable families can be found in this State to undertake the care of these cases. 3. If placed in these families, under systematic expert supervision and regular and competent visitation, these patients would be more comfortable than they now are; those who need it most could receive more effective treatment in the lunatic hospitals; and the expense to the State and the towns for the harmless insane would be considerably lessened." The immense mass of the chronic insane have, however, been cared for at home until such care is an impossibility, and what such care is, is shown by the sickening cases of neglect unearthed in Pennsylvania.

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ÆTIOLOGY OF PARETIC DEMENTIA.—Dr. Reinhard (*Allg. Zeit. für Psychiatrie*, Band xli., Heft 4 and 5) concludes that social storm and stress stand in the first rank as causes of paretic dementia, that drunkenness comes next, but is least potential in men. Syphilis is in the third rank. Heredity plays but a slight part.

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TRABECULA CINEREA IN THE INSANE.—Dr. Verga (*Atti del Quarto Congresso de la Societa Freniatria Italiana*) says that: First, the absence of the trabecula cinerea is not of much importance. Second, it is much less frequently absent in the female. Third, it is more frequently absent in the insane than the sane. Fourth, it is frequently absent in epileptics, but when present is well developed. Fifth, it seldom presents an exaggerated development in the female. Sixth, it is frequently absent or reduced in size in idiocy.

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INSANITY AND DIVORCE.—Dr. C. H. Hughes (*Alienist and Neurologist*, April, 1885), discussing this subject, says: "Something must be done to lessen the growth of this horde of neuropaths, tainting the congenital fountains of normal mental life, and the remedy must come, if ever, speedily, through enlightened public opinion and just law. The church may declare marriage a sacrament, and dignify it as a contract of God's, which no man can put asunder, as if God smiles upon the union of weakly neuropaths, the fruit of whose loins and wombs can only be weaklings in organization, whose fate is sure to be inevitably miserable, for in life's stern struggle for existence, to be organically defective is to be defeated. The solution of the vexed problem is plain, where, of two contracting parties to a marriage, one at the time of the union was insane. The church may pronounce them joined together by God, but the law, placing