

may require considerable ingenuity and an extended acquaintance with a patient to detect the existence of a delusion; and when that delusion is presented it will be found so plausible, so consistent in all its parts, that unless you have information in regard to the individual and his surroundings you may be deceived. In the instance of the man just referred to, when he took the stand and told his story he told it in such a consistent, interesting manner that a bystander, unless he knew some reason for disbelieving the narrative, would accept it; the Judge himself was completely puzzled. At last the veracity and probability of the story turned entirely upon the determination of the actual fact of an incident that he related. He told of a marriage which had taken place in a certain church, in a certain city and at a certain time. It happened to be a Roman Catholic church where it is customary to keep a record of such events. The judge at once recognized the possibility of testing the truth of this apparently plausible narrative, so he sent to the church indicated for information as to the truth or falsity of this statement, whether such a marriage had taken place or not. Word came back that no such marriage had ever taken place in that church, and this showed at once that the whole story was a delusion; yet it was so consistent in all its parts that without a knowledge of the history of the patient it would have been impossible for a stranger to detect the falsity of the narrative or the fact of the delusion.

I will not take up more time as Dr. Brower and Dr. Church can undoubtedly contribute a great deal more on this subject than I can.

(For discussion, see Society Proceedings.)

RECENT MEDICAL CASES IN THE COURTS.

BY HENRY A. RILEY, ESQ.,
OF NEW YORK CITY.

RECENT LEGISLATION TO REFORM CRIMINALS.

A summary of legislation concerning the public health and the public morals was published not long since, covering the statutes enacted in the various States during the previous twelve months, and that portion relating to crime is of general interest. The writer says: "the statutes of several States reflect the humane and growing sentiment that the punishment of criminals should contemplate, and as far as possible provide for their reformation."

Ohio authorizes general, or what are known as intermediate sentences for all persons for the first time convicted of felony below murder in the second degree, the board of managers of the penitentiary being authorized to terminate the imprisonment of any person so sentenced in case of good

conduct, at not less than the minimum of imprisonment provided by law, and if sentenced for more than one successive term for separate offenses, to remit the succeeding term or terms at the close of the first. Similar Acts were passed by New York and Michigan in 1889, but with further provision for allowing prisoners so sentenced to go at large on parole, subject to be retaken and imprisoned for violating its conditions.

A Kentucky statute limits the number of penitentiary prisoners who may be paroled in any one year to five per cent. An Iowa statute provides for shortening the time of convicts as a reward for good conduct, at the rate of one month for the first year and an additional month for succeeding years until one half is remitted, but such "good time" to be forfeited for misconduct or attempted escape; and another Act of that State appropriates \$1000 to be expended by the Iowa Prisoners Aid Association in helping discharged convicts to an honest life.

EXTRADITION AND THE NIHILIST PADLEWSKI.

The murder of General Seliveskoff at Paris by the Nihilist Padlewski has caused renewed attention to be paid to extradition laws, and some of the Governments of Europe have made great efforts to secure legislation more suited to the free extradition of persons charged with offences more or less political.

Considerable interest has been felt in the position of Switzerland, which country has long been known as a safe asylum for persons charged with political offenses. It has been said that a recent law was a concession to the reactionary party and would permit the extradition of such persons.

The text of the law does not seem to warrant such a statement, and in reality maintains the traditional position of Switzerland.

It says: "Extradition shall not be granted for political crimes and misdemeanors. Still, whenever the accused person shall plead political motives or aims, extradition shall be granted if the act for which it so demanded is one of the graver crimes or misdemeanors under the common law.

"The Federal tribunal shall examine the facts and decide upon the nature of the act. Whenever extradition shall have been granted, the Federal Council shall demand that the person to be extradited shall be neither charged with nor punished for political crime, and also the punishment shall not be made the more severe because some political motive or aim might be laid to the charge of the accused person."

A DEFINITION OF DELIRIUM TREMENS.

In a recent case in Indiana an insurance policy freed the company from liability where the assured "shall become so far intemperate as to impair his health seriously or permanently or induce delirium tremens," and the Court held that delir-

ium tremens was "that diseased condition of the brain said to be produced by the excessive and prolonged use of spirituous liquors."

The insurance company objected to this definition of the disease but the Appellate Court was of the opinion that it was correct and as favorable to the company as could be asked for.

PHYSICIANS ON A STRIKE.

Many of the physicians of Dutchess Co., New York, have inaugurated a strike against the Board of Supervisors. They have sent in a petition very largely signed in which they say that they believe \$10 to be a just and fair charge for an examination of a dead body before a coroner; \$25 a just charge for ordinary autopsical examinations, and \$10 a just charge for an ordinary examination in lunacy.

They further declare: "We do hereby agree not to perform the duties of coroner's physician or as examiner in lunacy for a less sum than stated; and we would respectfully ask your Board to fix the above charges as legitimate rates."

WHEN A HOUSE IS UNTENANTABLE.

The ordinary rule in house tenancy is that the lessee is liable for rent even though the building become rickety and poor. In some of the States, however, as in New York, the lessee is freed from his obligation if the property becomes "untenantable and unfit for occupancy." This limitation naturally comes up frequently for construction in disputes between landlord and tenant, and a recent decision shows certainly that the tenant in one case was entitled to abandon his lease. It appeared from the evidence that the building was shaken by repeated explosions, which caused the walls and ceilings to crack, the plaster to fall, clocks to stop; that the building was declared by the public authorities to be unsafe and dangerous, and that the rooms were at times so filled with coal gas and smoke as to make the inmates sick. The landlord ventured the cheerful opinion that the explosions were the result of dynamite being exploded somewhere in the house. The Court decided that the tenant was having a hard time and that he was constructively evicted and need not pay rent. It must not be understood however, that he could continue to occupy the premises and not pay rent. He must go out if he did not want to pay rent.

HYPNOTISM IN CINCINNATI.

The Common Council of Cincinnati has just passed an ordinance making it a misdemeanor to give hypnotic exhibitions. Dr. J. W. Prendergast, Health Officer of that city, is of the opinion that hypotism, when applied indiscriminately, is injurious, as it affects the mental health of the subject, and recommended the enactment of the ordinance. A lecturer on hypnotism was refused a license and obliged to leave the city.

HEALTH ORDINANCES IN THE SOUTH.

Not long since a Southern town, desirous to secure the title and emoluments of a health resort, passed an ordinance declaring that no land within the city limits exceeding an eighth of an acre should be cultivated by any one person except for flower gardens, the grape, and trees of all kinds, and absolutely forbidding the cultivation of rice under any circumstances. This ordinance came before the State Supreme Court for review and was held valid under the general power held by all communities to legislate for the health of the town. It is evident that the South is bound to secure the reputation of being healthy even if food has to be imported from other sections, on account of the non-cultivation of the soil.

FEDERAL LAWS ON IMMIGRATION.

The subject of controlling undesirable legislation will occupy considerable attention at the present session of Congress, and one of the main objects will be to amend the laws so as to prevent paupers, criminals and insane immigrants from entering the United States by way of Canada. A bill has just been reported in the House of Representatives on the subject, but as it contains no reference to Canada will require amendment. One section of the bill imposes a fine of \$1000 or imprisonment on any person who brings into the country an alien not entitled to land. This requires almost supernatural knowledge on the part of the Captains of transatlantic steamers and will no doubt have to be changed.

THE CLINIC.

LARYNGEAL PAPILLOMATA IN A CHILD THREE YEARS OF AGE; ENDO- LARYNGEAL REMOVAL.

A Clinical Lecture in the Rush Medical College, Chicago, Oct., 1890.

BY E. FLETCHER INGALS, A.M., M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF LARYNGOLOGY.

Gentlemen: I have to show you to-day a little boy who was recently sent to me from New Mexico because of aphonia and difficulty in respiration. The mother gives me the following history: The boy, who is now 3 years of age, has never been able to speak aloud, and was always troubled with difficulty in breathing whenever he took cold, indeed there has been something peculiar in his respiration ever since birth. When he was 2 years of age the parents noticed enlarged tonsils, which it was thought might be the cause of his difficulty in breathing. He was then taken to a physician who gave him some local and internal treatment, with the hope of reducing the size of these glands. About last