

difference in the type of crime committed by the excited or depressed patient. In mania the most common crime in a series of 52 cases was that of theft, 10 cases; next in order of frequency were crimes associated with insulting words and behaviour, 8 cases; and there were 7 crimes of violence, 6 assaults and 1 murder. In 53 cases of melancholia there were 34 cases of violence, 17 attempts at suicide, 10 murder, 6 attempted murder, and 1 for causing grievous bodily harm. There were only 4 cases of theft, and 3 of insulting behaviour. The remaining cases in either group were unimportant in themselves, and the contrast in the two groups less marked.

The trivial nature of the crime so often associated with mania is probably due in part to the fact that the maniac directs the attention of others to himself, and to the necessity of protecting them from the consequences of his conduct. It seems also due in some measure to the fact that the slighter cases exercise some control over their conduct, and that when the excitement is more severe their actions lack the pre-meditation and co-ordination found in many cases of melancholia.

The mild cases of mania and melancholia may present serious difficulties in diagnosis. If slight cases of mania pass unrecognized there is less likelihood of serious crime resulting than when this happens in slight cases of melancholia, for comparatively mild degrees of depression sometimes cause murder and attempts at suicide. The nature of the offence in mania or melancholia often suggests mental disorder. A man with a history of two previous attacks of insanity was arrested for stealing pieces of carpet on which door-step cleaners knelt to do their work. He was restless, excited, exalted, talkative and boastful. He said that he provided Jack the Ripper with women for the purpose of mutilation. He was arrogant, devoid of decency and suffered from insomnia, and it was necessary to certify him as insane. In cases of melancholia the only

rational explanation of the murder of a loved one may be mental alienation.

There may be some difficulty, when an accused person first comes under observation before trial, in deciding whether the symptoms are due to mania or alcohol or a combination of both. A man was charged with being drunk and disorderly. He failed to gain admission into a Poor Law institution and went to a police station to complain. He became so obstructive there that it was necessary to arrest him. When he came under observation there was no evidence of exaltation, confusion, disorientation, delusions or hallucinations, but he was hostile, truculent, excited and talkative. I inclined to the view that he was suffering from hypomania but had insufficient evidence to certify him. A few months later he returned, again charged with being drunk and disorderly. His condition was now aggravated and grandiose delusions were also manifest. It was clear he was passing through an attack of mania and was dealt with accordingly.

(To be continued.)

EDITORIAL.

FINAL FELLOWSHIP CLASSES.

It is proposed to hold in the autumn a series of special classes in Clinical Surgery and Pathology. Although intended primarily for those who are entering for the Final Fellowship Examination of the Royal College of Surgeons in November, the classes will be open to all post-graduates.

These classes are not intended to take the place of the various Fellowship Courses held at certain hospitals, but are intended to afford intending candidates an additional opportunity of examining patients and being questioned on the diagnosis and treatment in a manner similar to that which obtains in the Fellowship Examination.

The classes will be held in the rooms of the Medical Society of London, at 8.30 p.m., on the evenings of October 8, 17, 22, 29, and November 5 and 12. The demonstration on October 29 will be on pathological specimens, the other evenings being devoted to clinical surgery.

The members of the classes will have the opportunity of examining the cases, and will be examined on their diagnosis, pathology and treatment. The members of the classes will be divided into small groups; three or four surgeons will be present, each of whom will take the different groups in turn.

The fee for the series of six classes will be £3 3s., or 12s. for each session. As the numbers will be limited, those who desire to enrol should send in their names as soon as possible to the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

POST-GRADUATE NEWS.

IN Gynæcology, the Chelsea Hospital for Women has arranged a special course from June 16 to June 27, consisting of instruction by operation and by lecture. The time occupied is some mornings and some afternoons. Fee £5 5s.

From June 16 to June 27 there will be an afternoon course in Dermatology at the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars Road, S.E. The fee for this course is £1 1s.

Also beginning on June 16, and continuing until June 28, an intensive course in medicine, surgery and the specialities will be held at the North-East London Post-Graduate College (Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.15). Clinics will be held from 10.30 to 12.30 each day, including Saturdays. The afternoons are occupied by instruction in the various departments of the Hospital, and at 4.30 p.m. formal lectures will be delivered, which are

open to members of the Fellowship of Medicine without fee. The course is especially suitable to the panel practitioner—the instruction given at this hospital having been approved by the Ministry of Health. Fee £5 5s. or £3 3s. for either week.

From June 30 to July 5 a course in Diseases of the Rectum will take place at St. Mark's Hospital. The greater part of each day throughout the week will be occupied by the entrants, and every opportunity for study will be available to post-graduates interested in this special branch of surgery. Fee £3 3s.

POST-GRADUATE COURSE IN MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Under the auspices of the Maternity and Child Welfare Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health and the Fellowship of Medicine.

Monday, June 30.

10 a.m.—*Mothers' Hospital*, Clapton, E.5.
Lady Barrett: Obstetrical Demonstration.

2 p.m.—*Queen Charlotte's Hospital*, Marylebone Road, N.W.1.

Mr. Rivett: Obstetrical Demonstration.

4.30 p.m.—*Charing Cross Hospital*.

Mr. Bright Banister: Obstetrical Demonstration.

Tuesday, July 1.

10.30 a.m.—*St. Thomas's Hospital*, Albert Embankment, S.E.1.

Mr. Hedley, Mr. Wyatt: Obstetrical Demonstration.

6 p.m.—*St. Mary Abbott's Hospital*, Marloes Road, Kensington, W.8.

Dr. Remington Hobbs: "Puerperal Sepsis."

2.30 to 4.30 p.m.—National Baby Week Meeting.

Wednesday, July 2.

9.30 a.m.—*Queen Charlotte's Hospital*, Marylebone Road, N.W.1.

Mr. Bourne: Obstetrical Demonstration.

10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.—National Baby Week Meeting.