

MINUTES AND DISCUSSION.

¹⁹²THE ~~seventeenth~~ meeting of the Association of Medical Officers of American Institutions for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Persons was held in New Haven, May 28th, 29th and 30th, 1895.

The session was called to order on Tuesday, May 28, at 2 P.M., by Dr. Rogers, of Minnesota, who introduced the president, Dr. A. W. Wilmarth.

The president's address was read by Dr. Wilmarth. On motion of Mr. Alexander Johnson it was voted: that the president's address be referred to the committee on publication.

The secretary, Dr. Rogers, presented the following names as active members: Dr. F. F. Corson, of Vineland, N. J.; Thyrsa C. Williams, Haddenfield, N. J.; C. W. Winspear, Newark, N. Y. These persons were declared elected. On motion of Mr. Johnson Dr. Delia E. Howe, Ft. Wayne, Ind., was made an active member.

DR. FISH:—There seems to be an erroneous impression on the part of some persons that this association is a close corporation. That was not the intention of Dr. Kerlin, who had so much to do with the founding of the association, and it is directly contrary to the by-laws, which say that members "shall be the medical heads of existing institutions, and such persons as have distinguished themselves by interest in this defective class." We are glad to welcome to active membership any who are interested in our work.

Discussion of the opening paper was then invited.

DR. FISH:—I wish to say a few words about the scientific part of the president's paper, to which I listened with great pleasure. There is great ignorance, even in the minds of medical men, with regard to our work. It can safely be said that no member of the profession in the United States has done more in the line of etiology and practical scientific work than Dr. Wilmarth. I have received great benefit from his writings in the "Alienist and Neurologist," and in other papers. I have talked with medical men who have been surprised at the cases where actual brain lesion exists in connection with imbecility. It is important to understand that we have not merely arrested development to deal with, but that we have to contend with actual brain disease. Just there comes in the duty of the family physician who is called upon to attend to these cases at the very beginning. A child has a convulsion, and it is slurred over as due to the teeth. That convulsion, however, may lead to changed conditions of the brain which may be very far-reaching.

The attention of the medical profession should be called to this class of mental defect. In regard to the suggestion as to the employment of adults in farm labor. I have talked so much about that, that I will now leave it for someone else to refer to; but, economically considered, it is very important.

MR. ALEXANDER JOHNSON:—I have no doubt that my brethren of the Association will congratulate me now that we have in the Indiana School for the feeble-minded a medical officer who, in all medical matters, is supreme. It seems to me that the supervision of the work of the institution, including the farm and the school department, is enough work for a man of ordinary capacity. It is necessary that those in medical charge should have abundant time for study and clinical work. The medical man or woman should not be hampered and anxious about many things not connected with that department. The superintendent is pulled a hundred different ways at once. No matter how he may map out his time, he is constantly called away to attend to important matters. Our plan has been in operation only a few months, but it promises exceedingly well. The reproach that has been upon us may, I hope, be removed in the future.

DR. CARSON:—I have been much interested in the President's address. It is of course, important to impress upon the medical profession the value of inquiring into the conditions that bring about convulsions in young children. A great many young children are susceptible to convulsions. Some have them repeatedly, and apparently suffer no harm, while again one convulsion may wreck a child for life. Convulsions in children, in very many cases, are, I think, superinduced by feverish conditions which accompany attack of indigestion, diarrhoeal troubles, acute bronchitis, measles, and other diseases incident to early life. The medical profession should pay attention to these convulsions, and try, if possible, to avoid evil after effects. A great many times they might be anticipated and prevented by simple medical treatment; by keeping the bowels active and the system free from indigestible articles, many children might be saved.

DR. ROGERS:—I enjoyed the President's address very much, it covered the ground so well. In regard to medical work, I sometimes think that I could keep seven physicians employed fourteen hours out of the twenty-four every day. I believe in obtaining a full history of every child admitted to an institution; and we try to do that. I believe in having the physical and psychological conditions of the child made a matter of record. The development should also be recorded. From these various records we may have data from which to make comparisons, and from which we may be able to learn how to suggest preventive measures. Our institutions are psychological laboratories, but, to a certain extent, we have to

work in the dark. I have lately been interested in studying the life of Thomas Edison. I have looked on him as a genius, but I believe his genius lies in his ability to apply his mind continuously during long periods. If we can keep our people at work on these lines of investigation for years, we shall have valuable material for eetiological and educational purposes. Some of Edison's most important inventions have been worked out by continuous application on some one subject. They have been accomplished by hard work. A great deal of our work is done at random. We do not estimate sufficiently high the far-reaching value of what we may do. I am in favor of introducing scientific study as far as possible. Our institutions are necessary evils, and while we must first provide for the children, clothing them, housing them, giving them food, and, as far as possible, developing them, yet the fact of their existence shows that there are flaws in our civilization which we ought to study and eliminate. I would emphasize the necessity of scientific work in all our institutions.

DR. AMBROSE M. MILLER:—So far as our institution is concerned, some six or eight years ago we instituted the subject of child study among our teachers. When a child is brought to us we measure his head and body, observe his aimless activities, and try to determine his different peculiarities. This study is leading to something in abnormal psychology which we shall understand better by-and-by. We select special cases for study. We have now a boy whose head seems to be well developed; whose front brain seems to be all right; but there is no proper co-ordination, there is no harmony in his actions. We think the study of abnormal psychology is necessary to the proper exercise of our duties. We have also entered upon the question whether abnormalities of the brain are occasioned by abnormalities of the body. I like the ideas and suggestions of the President. I think he is working on the right lines.

DR. WILMARTH:—A great deal of matter has been collected by the superintendents, but it is all hidden because we have no one to bring it out. Unless it can be formulated and published, little good is done. If the superintendents would bring out to the light the results of their studies it would be of great interest.

JUDGE FOLLETT, of Ohio:—In our institution for epileptics, original investigations are being made and a correspondence has been opened with other bodies that are doing the same.

DR. WM. B. FISH:—Papers on the subjects which particularly interest us might be brought before state medical societies. They would gladly receive any light we could give them.

JUDGE FOLLETT:—In a discussion that I heard the other day with a man, he tried to show how cheaply dependents can be kept. Nutritious food is given in our (Ohio) institution. It is all foolishness to try to keep this class on the cheapest diet. I have heard it said that in New Hampshire a man could be kept working, and yet his

cost for food would be but six and a quarter cents a day. How can a man be healthy and properly fed on six and a quarter cents a day? At times there has been a pressure in Ohio in this direction. The great question has come up, how much does it cost? I think we must change this. Boys and girls who are growing, and people in depressed circumstances, must have special food.

REV. M. MCG. DANA:—There is always an effort to show how economically institutions may be conducted. Comparisons are continually being made between the expenses of one institution for imbeciles and another. I do not know how you are going to rid the body politic of the idea that institutions are run best when brought down to the lowest possible diet. It can never be overcome until the public is convinced that in the long run it will cost more than to keep them properly.

DR. MARTIN W. BARR:—We have been paying a great deal of attention to the food of epileptics. Once a week I meet my matron and we talk over this subject. These defective children need good diet. In the treatment of epilepsy the diet is much more important than the medical treatment. The digestive tract must be kept in good order.

JUDGE FOLLETT:—A lady in Ohio, a highly educated woman, visited our institutions, and afterwards made a report advocating the employment of an educated person to teach the girls in our institutions how to cook—to give them a three years' course. She issued a pamphlet on the subject, and gave it to our trustees. Those trustees would not reappoint that lady as a visitor for the next year. If you can have an educated person go into an institution to look after the diet, I think all that it costs will be saved.

DR. S. J. FORT:—For six years I have been working on the line of the treatment of chronic cases of epilepsy, and I have been surprised at the results of careful oversight of the diet by the medical superintendents. The suggestions of our friend from Ohio in regard to cooking are wise. The food should be prepared in a proper manner, and served in a suitable way. You might feed the children for six cents a day by cooking everything in one kettle; but that does not answer when you are using food as medicine. Proper food is as much a therapeutic resource as are drugs. I think it would be well to consider exercise also in this direction. Compulsory exercise is necessary. The sluggish habits of epileptics are very hard to overcome. But with proper food their digestion is better, they sleep better, and there are fewer nocturnal spasms. Proper diet and exercise should be insisted upon. I do not mean that they must be put through a gymnasium; but I do mean that they must be made to walk, to play ball, and take other exercise; and if this is continuously followed, the monthly rate of spasms will be lessened. There is nothing more vital than this matter

of diet, with good cooking and care as to quality and quantity, and proper exercise.

DR. GEO. H. KNIGHT:—Several gentlemen have referred to cutting down expenses in the matter of diet. I do not think that amounts to much. If the people will cut down the amount that is expended in building palaces for the insane as well as for feeble-minded children, that *will* amount to something. I am opposed to building an institution at a large *per capita* cost. Take some of our insane asylums, for instance, and some of our feeble-minded institutions—they cost too much. It is utter nonsense to build at a cost of from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars *per capita*. Institutions can be built and equipped in every part at a cost not exceeding four hundred and fifty to five hundred dollars per bed. That is where you can cut down and reduce your *per capita* cost. If you will build at this smaller price you will never find any old farmer in the legislature trying to cut you down in diet. Our work is many-sided. I think it has more sides than face the superintendents of insane asylums. It is impossible for the superintendent to do everything. Some states have provided for a resident pathologist in their insane asylums. That is right. I hope the time will come when every feeble-minded institution will have a pathologist who will have nothing to do but to investigate and systematize the discoveries which are made. There is another thing to be considered. Every report of an insane asylum shows a per cent of persons cured, but you never see any report of those cases when they come back though it is true that some cases are cured, especially early ones.

As to the care of epileptics, one claims that diet will apply to every case: another thinks that a certain mixture of which bromide is a prominent ingredient, can be given to these epileptic children with good effect. I do not believe it. I have never yet found a solution or mixture that will apply to every individual case of epilepsy. We must have individual treatment every time. I have never found two epileptic children who could take the same mixture and get good results. Of course, diet is a good thing. You have got to keep the digestive tract in a good, healthy condition in order to take up and digest nutritious and simple food.

Then we have these custodial cases which are diseased cases; and epileptic cases which are diseased; and semi-medical cases—cases where a point is not yet reached that the epilepsy can be called a disease. It is in the early stage. Then we have the lowest type of custodial idiot—the epileptic. So our work, as I say, is many more sided than any other work with which specialists are called to deal.

MR. JOHNSON:—In Nearly all the institutions of our state the cost of food-supply has recently been cut down. But ex-

penses for food ought not to be closely considered. If the physician orders medicine which is expensive, we must use that medicine. So, anything which will be useful in developing these children should be given. I think it is desirable to show that things can be done at a reasonable cost, and it can be done if we can arrange our work well. One important advantage of the colony system is the great opportunity afforded for economy in that respect. In the case of our own institution, we began farming in November, 1893, and we have reduced the apparent cost of our food supply, and, at the same time the food has been much better than it was. We do not put down the cost of what we raise on the farm. Expenses may be further reduced by the use of less handsome carriages, fewer fast horses, and other things that are not necessary. The first cost of our institution was large. I confess to having a liking for tiled floors. Those we copied from the Ohio institution. Everything was well equipped in the beginning. But the cost for repairs is excessive, and we have to live up to the level of our blul china, so to speak. It is hard to do it. We are now going in for more economic buildings, away from the main building, and I hope we shall have good results.

MR. CLARENCE SNYDER, OF WISCONSIN:—I was interested in what Dr. Knight said. We have a small amount of money with which to begin our institution in Wisconsin, and we want to know how to spend it. We are going to visit as many institutions in the East as possible before we return. We are going to take teachable and custodial imbeciles of both sexes. The idea I take from here is, that we shall care for the teachable cases and for young women of child-bearing age who belong in the custodial class. I believe the colony plan is opposed to the congregate plan. Perhaps we ought to build an administrative or central building, which can be added to later. We have no money for maintenance. We have just one hundred thousand dollars, and are authorized to select and purchase a site. It is agreed that one acre per child is necessary. We shall buy at least six hundred acres and have a long-time option on contiguous land. We have decided that this institution shall go to some part of the state where there is excellent farming land, where we can keep stock, and have a silo. Our state school for dependent children is built on a barren ledge. We are going to find the best soil. I believe it is possible to make this class nearly pay for its own keep. The cooking question is very important. There should be scientific preparation of food. By that method money will be saved and the food will be better. It is economy to buy the best articles, especially the best flour. I hope you gentlemen will keep us from making mistakes in our new undertaking.

DR. ROGERS:—The location and organization of an institution for feeble-minded children is perfectly safe in the hands of men like

Mr. Snyder. I do not believe it makes any difference whether he starts with his training school or with his custodial department. Every institution for the feeble-minded is, in one sense, a custodial institution. On the other hand, every custodial institution is, or should be, a training school. There is not a department or group of children that should not be under training. Every person should be employed in some way. In every state there is a population of defectives that come under our scrutiny. In the feeble-minded classes we have low grade idiots, absolutely helpless; they lead a vegetative life. Then there are children who drop out of the public schools, and drift into a school for the feeble-minded. If, in organizing an institution, we keep in mind the fact that we are to have these different classes, I do not think it matters much at which end we begin. If you go to Waverly, Massachusetts, the first impression that you will get is, that the buildings are very plain—almost brick boxes. But you will find that they are well lighted, well ventilated, and admirably arranged. The children are in different groups, and you will find there the best training, I believe that feeble-minded children have in this country. You will find the work that is being done in private institutions is done there. The children are studied individually, and a great deal of attention is paid to training their senses and perceptions. Children that came in a few months ago, who tore their clothes and were very disorderly, are now like well-ordered children.

The thing which I want to emphasize is, that it does not matter whether you begin work with a lower grade or with a higher. At Waverly the senses and activities are trained. They are put to work and kept at it. Low grade children that can do nothing else are set to carrying stones from one pile to another, and by these well-directed efforts, the destruction of clothing and furniture is prevented. There are four hundred and thirty children in that institution, and it is a training school from cellar to garret. If a state starts aright it will work out the ideal, and all classes of the feeble minded will be cared for. If you have only the school idea at first, you will find that you must admit custodial cases. If you begin with the custodial cases, you will find the school an absolute necessity; you will be obliged to have different departments. An institution can be administered more economically on that plan. If a state is starting anew, I believe it should work at once toward the community plan. It is better for the children. What would you do with normal children if they did not have other children with whom to associate? You cannot make the most of a child by bringing it up alone with a governess. It must have other child life associated with it. It is a fact that the feeble-minded child will do better with a feeble-minded child than with a bright one. Then from the economical side in this community system so many child-

ren are brought together that there are always some who can contribute to their support in the way of manufacturing articles, doing house-work, or sewing for the institution. Your farm boys will find occupation in raising produce for the institution on the farm. You have your own market. After we developed our farm in Minnesota our *per capita* cost dropped at once. Our boys raise nearly all the produce that we need, and they are happy to contribute toward the support of the institution. Our band contributes to the happy life of the lower grade children. We have a band that plays for the children in the different departments at different times, and it adds much to their life. We have entertainments for the children, and in so large a community there are always those found who can contribute to this. The groups should be just large enough to be easily and economically administered. When you have reached the point beyond which an institution cannot be easily and economically administered, start another one.

MR. SNYDER:--It seems to me that there is no reason why there should not be an indefinite increase in numbers.

DR. ROGERS:--There is a limit to any man's capacity as superintendent. His business is to keep things working in harmony. And there is a limit beyond which no man can do that.

DR. FISH:--I agree heartily with Dr. Rogers in most respects; I differ with him, however, in one respect. I would start an institution as a school always, taking into consideration that it had got to be an institution for custodial care as well. You would not get many bands out of the custodial cases. If you had your school first, you would get your band. Then there should be some plan from the start by which an institution could be built up. The great trouble in the past has been not taking the work seriously enough; it was considered experimental. The age of the experimental school has passed. We do not now have the same difficulties with which to contend. The older institutions grew up haphazard, without any definite plan, without knowing what the ultimate number of persons cared for should be.

I think the outlook in Wisconsin seems excellent for a perfect institution. They seem to have some definite plan on which to work, and some definite idea as to the future of the institution. In the matter of building, I have a strong feeling in favor of putting up plain and inexpensive buildings. I think they should not exceed two stories in height, and where it is possible, the material used should be brick. It is important to have the heating plant of sufficient capacity; for, if you wish to increase it, a large additional expense is necessary. So far as possible, settle the details of your plan of construction, and make up your mind to work for some definite end.

JUDGE FOLLETT: There should be land enough. Elwyn has fifteen hundred acres. The institution in California has three thousand. Wisconsin is talking of six hundred. I would say, do not stop with less than a thousand. In Ohio the institution cost two thousand dollars per bed. Now they think one can be put up for two hundred and fifty dollars. Another thing is to be considered: We have not enough scientific men. The general superintendent must be a superior man and receive a large salary. If you have the colony plan, you can have assistant doctors taking care of the different departments, who will have the experience and guidance of the general superintendent; you multiply his power ten-fold by having the work concentrated in this way.

DR. ROGERS: I think that what is done will depend on the community itself, and they can start with the custodial or with the school system. A band is not needed to start with, but when a school is established and a band needed, there will be a band and all other necessary things. I always favor the school idea. It should be kept in view, however, that all these classes must be provided for, whichever way the institution is begun.

DR. FISH: I do not think you will get the public interested as quickly in the custodial cases.

Adjourned at 4:30.

Association called to order at 8:00 A.M. by President Wilmarth. The name of Dr. Rutter, of Gallipolis, O., was proposed for membership. By unanimous vote the secretary was instructed to cast the ballot of the Association for Dr. Rutter.

A paper was read by Dr. Barr on "Moral Paranoia." (Pg. 522.)

DISCUSSION:

DR. FISH: This is a timely and interesting paper. With much of it I heartily agree. I take it for granted Dr. Barr makes no distinction between moral paranoia and moral imbecility.

DR. BARR: Yes.

DR. FISH: Mental paranoia is different from mental imbecility, because it is insanity. The moral imbecile is a problem that confronts every superintendent. He causes gray hairs. Provision should be made to isolate the moral imbecile from other children. The evil influence of one moral imbecile upon other children is immense, and at Lincoln there was no way to dispose of them properly. I put the girls in an attic, and I herded the boys together. I often thought of erecting a building for moral imbeciles upon the farm away from the institution. Here they might have certain privileges if they did well, and might be punished by confinement and loss of liberty if they did wrong. It seems very important to avoid contamination of the other children by the children of this

class. There is a marked relation between moral imbecility and crime. Take Elmira, for instance; quite a large per cent of the inmates are moral imbeciles. The same thing prevails in all jails and prisons, and it is also true among prostitutes and tramps. We have only awakened to these facts in recent times. Dr. Kerlin called attention to them, in his paper read at St. Louis in 1884. This class should be detained for life in institutions. It is unjust to apply the same law to them as to willful criminals. Many of them are sent to insane asylums, then they are afterwards allowed to come out. This is also true about those that go to prison. It is wrong to regard them as responsible for their actions, but yet it is absolutely necessary to protect society against them. Dr. Barr referred to brain measurements. There is something of value in them. But is not the texture of the brain more important than its size and shape? I have known people with heads that were hideous nightmares, yet there was nothing wrong about them. These moral imbeciles are, if any are, proper subjects for operations for desexualization, or at least many cases of them are. Dr. Rogers has conversed with a physician who declared that the cases so operated upon became insane. It seems that this operation, so far, is only on its trial. Dr. Kerlin was in favor of it, but his board would not consent in one instance. I doubt whether the time is ripe for a wholesale application of such a radical measure, but there must be some cases proper for it.

DR. CARSON; I am curious to know just what Dr. Barr means by "moral paranoia." It is a new term to me. I supposed paranoia had reference to an insane condition, but it would seem as if Dr. Barr's "moral paranoiac" does not reach the insane period. There is a wide distinction between the moral imbecile and the paranoiac. Do you not recognize this distinction, Dr. Barr?

DR. BARR: I did until last year, but I have been studying the subject, and have been reading Lombroso, Grey and others, and they assert, and I think I can see, a distinction between the mental paranoiac and the moral paranoiac.

DR. CARSON: Not long ago I received a newspaper report about the operation of castration in Kansas by the superintendent of a school for feeble-minded children. There were said to have been numerous cases operated upon and good results were claimed. I do not know that they were cases of moral paranoia, but they were boys who were inmates of the State institution. I have heard different superintendents within few years talking much about moral imbeciles. It would seem there must be a large number of moral imbeciles or moral paranoiacs in our institutions. I must confess either that I do not recognize them when I see them, or that we have a very small number at Syracuse. Out of 540 children now in our institution, I really do not know a single one I would class

as a moral imbecile. We have a large number who are disposed to go wrong, and frequently commit mean, petty acts; possibly some of you superintendents might call them moral imbeciles, but with one or two possible exceptions, I could not so classify. Dr. Fish must have had a whole group, and Dr. Miller bears him out.

DR. MILLER:—I have had some experience with this class at Lincoln.

DR. KNIGHT: I have had some correspondence with Dr. Wey, of Elmira. He says that two per cent of their prisoners they recognize as being moral imbeciles.

DR. ARTHUR McDONALD: (In answer to question) As to the peculiar shape of skulls, Dr. Knight certainly knows more than I do. The question is a debatable one as to measurements and their signification. The German authors take one side, and the French mainly another. Still it seems probable that any unusual craniometry shows abnormality of brain. The questions raised are, whether the brain has influence on the cranium, or the cranium on the brain; but there has not been a sufficient number of experiments to prove anything positively. Beuchardt, of Vienna, has done much in craniometry. He insists on half millimetre measures of the sutures, but the difficulty is to get the exact point to begin for such very fine measures. Asymmetries are more frequent with the insane, according to Richter and Daldorf. We have been asking what are the peripheral stigmata of insanity, but it is not easy to tell. Richter thinks that one eye being higher than the other, is a mark of this kind, and that there is often a noticeable difference in this respect among a considerable per cent of the insane, but this does not apply to the criminal.

Recently during a voyage across the Atlantic, I carefully observed 150 cabin passengers to see how many had one eye higher than the other. I found 4 per cent noticeably so. Two of these were eccentric musicians. This may be said to be a neurotic symptom, probably, the ear and the palate are affected together.

DR. FORT: I fear we shall soon have some difficulty in satisfying lawyers as to the meaning of "moral imbecile" and "moral paranoiac." Take the case of the negro lynched last night, who had been convicted and sentenced to be hanged. He has been examined by many persons as to his sanity. The inexpert thought he was sane, the expert that he was a moral imbecile. Had his lawyers understood anything about moral paranoia, he might have been acquitted, or at least some physician might have testified in such a way as to save him from hanging. How are we to discriminate and prove our point? Dr. Carson finds few or none; Dr. Fish finds many. If they changed places and took each other's institutions, it would probably be the same. We often hear of children giving great trouble in schools who are an enigma to those who

have to govern them. I have been consulted by teachers trying to find out what was the matter with boys showing peculiar symptoms, sexual perverts, etc. In such cases trustees of schools should know enough to call in a medical man, and determine whether they are cases of moral imbeciles who should be dismissed from the school, lest they do harm to other children.

DR. MILLER: I would like to know under which head to classify the dangerous crank.

DR. FISH: He is a moral imbecile.

DR. MILLER: I think the testimony given in the Prendergast case shows great differences of opinion in some of the ablest medical men, as they were diametrically opposed to one another. So in the Guiteau case. The medical profession will be subject to opprobrium if its decisions are not more exact. I have had some experience with such dangerous cranks. On one occasion a gentleman came into my office, and addressed me in a conversational tone. His voice was low; he spoke in a deliberate manner; his sentences were coherent. He said he wanted a certificate as an M. D. He had come as a specialist on nervous disease. He told me in a very intelligent way what he could do. I looked at him for a while. He had a sharp, keen eye. I told him as a stranger I must decline the request, I knew nothing about him, and could not possibly give him a certificate as a physician. He looked up savagely and struck at me. We had a hard struggle, and I finally put him out of the office. A lawyer in Lincoln told me he knew the family. This man was not a graduate of medicine. He was a steady drinker. What would you call a case like his? Four weeks after, he went to a banker in town, and asked for \$50. On being refused, he jumped over the counter, got the banker by the hair, and would have hurt him seriously had not help been near. The man died recently. I thought that a case of paranoia. I had another case, a man we will call Jones, belonging to a prominent family. His father was partly insane. He was educated at the Lincoln University, a man of more than average talent. One day coming from school he was talking about arithmetic. A young man questioned his knowledge. Jones turned on him and beat him nearly to death. Two years afterwards he whipped a farm hand nearly to death. People began to think him insane. He could always talk well; was mentally alert; always spoke in a low, quiet tone of voice. He was tried for insanity. I was one of the jury. Jones conducted his own case with ability. He catechised the jurors as to what they knew about insanity. According to the law of Illinois, six jurors were required in such a case. I made up my mind he was insane, but the jury disagreed. One of the jurors told him I wanted to send him to Jacksonville. He at once bought a pistol and went gunning for me. I had notice of it and stayed at home. I sent word to his friends that they should send him out of the city, or I should hurt

him. His friends sent him to Kansas. He stayed six months. He had a farm there, broke up the land, built a house. One day he came to town to a saloon, asked for a quart of liquor, was refused, and threatened the dealer; came to town the next day with two pistols, went to the saloon and killed the saloon keeper, then fired into the crowd, killing one woman and wounding a child. He was hunted down by men on horseback, who killed him like a wild beast. Was he a mental or a moral paranoiac? I think the adjective should be omitted as making a distinction without a difference.

DR. KNIGHT: There is no question that we have a dangerous class, whether they are moral or mental paranoiacs. We are taking steps in Connecticut, and hope to establish a reformatory on the indeterminate plan. My idea has been that the moral imbeciles who commit crime, should be sent to the reformatory and when they are recognized as moral imbeciles by the medical officer there they should be retained permanently, made useful in labor, but not be allowed to work their way out as ordinary criminals are. I think, when we recognize a member of this very dangerous class, and have him in confinement, he should be kept there. Some of our judges are inclined to accept this plan and, if it could be carried out, I think it would be a solution of our difficulty.

MR. JOHNSON: Since I have been Superintendent of the Indiana institution, I have been looking carefully for moral imbeciles, but I confess I have found but few whom I should so class. I have had one or two children whom I was inclined to class as such, but further observation and further effort has shown some improvement in them, and if they are moral imbeciles, they are not utterly hopeless, but are probably as susceptible of moral improvement, as the ordinary mental imbecile is susceptible of mental improvement, that is to say, some of them to a considerable extent, and some to a very small extent.

DR. ROGERS:—I have had three cases whom I should class as moral imbeciles. One was a girl who was periodically maniacal. During the intervals she was like ordinary girls. Mentally she was very stupid. She learned next to nothing. From earliest childhood she was noted for outbreaks of passion. She was very sexual and vulgar, was constantly masturbating, would frequently expose herself, but when detected by an officer she would try to cover herself quickly. We discussed removing her ovaries. Her excitement was concurrent with her menstrual periods and there was excessive tenderness over the ovaries. A prominent surgeon claimed that removing ovaries would be of little benefit. However, the operation was performed; no bad results followed and for six months the girl was better in every way. Gradually she returned to her former habit and behavior, and in fact became worse than

ever before. Finally she was sent to the hospital for the insane, as a measure of protection

Q. Were both ovaries removed?

Ans. Yes, sir.

I suppose all the members present are familiar with the facts respecting the recent experiment in Kansas. (Extract from newspaper read) Among the results in Kansas, was that the matter got into politics. The superintendent was bitterly attacked. He wrote to many of the superintendents and letters from them were published in Kansas papers. Of course superintendents in answering such letters had to be very guarded.

I would like to ask the question, are there any cases wherein castration is proper except for the relief of the disease?

DR. BARR:—I know of a moral imbecile more than usually intractable who was castrated. He settled down into a quiet boy, giving thenceforth but comparatively little trouble. An attendant reported that he found him trying to masturbate, notwithstanding.

The habit of exposing the person, seems comparatively common among Europeans. Of a large number of reported cases last year 9 percent have been ministers. Dr. Gray's article on this subject should be read by all. Lombroso uses the term moral imbecile and paranoiac. Dr. Kerlin had two cases of the removal of ovaries among his girl inmates. In one case there was no improvement, in the other the improvement was marked.

DR. BARR:—I knew of a case which may be interesting in this connection. A young man of good family, who had always given his relations a great deal of trouble. A pronounced kleptomaniac. He was expelled from college for theft. He went abroad and there moved in the highest circles, became the intimate friend of a prince. He came home after a while, was received by his family kindly, but in a few days went through the house, stealing from the members of the household and visitors alike, all the money and jewelry he could lay his hands on, and decamped. He then went to one of our northern cities and there married a wealthy girl, separated from her and returned to Europe, where he undertook to "do" his friend, the prince. He is now in a foreign prison, serving a term at hard labor. The fellow would go to any amount of trouble to cheat anybody, although not in need of money.

We, who are working among this class of people, fail to realize how difficult it is for others to understand them. I am frequently surprised at the simplicity of cases upon which I am called upon to give an opinion, often accompanied by a huge pile of manuscript notes, as was one sent me not long ago by an eminent neurologist. So easy was the diagnosis that the solution seemed obvious.

Association adjourned for the time.

Wednesday, 9:15, A. M. Association called to order by Pres. Wilmarth.