

employ such inhalers, against which nothing can be urged except their expense and the moderate amount of experience which their use requires. The aggregate death-rate from chloroform narcosis is still lamentably high, and it shows no signs of a tendency to diminish—rather the contrary. Circumstances may justify a relaxation of these precautions, but such relaxation should be the exception and not the rule, as we fear it is at present. The result of the action just referred to must not blind us to the fact that a great moral responsibility, which the whim of a jury may at any time convert into a legal responsibility, falls upon those who lightly manipulate an agent with such disastrous potentialities.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

Sir Hector Macdonald's Incomprehensible Change of Character.

One of the difficult things to average comprehension is that in incomprehensible change of character which sometimes comes over minds once strong and brave and great after the involution and premature overstrain sets in and the high inhibitions cease to restrain the suggestions and impulses of the lower centres of strong organisms perverted by the changes of neurone disease and decadence.

An example of such a case appears in the later days of Bonaparte and Webster, and lately has been repeated in the bizarre immoral conduct of the brave thirty-year battle tried Major-General, Sir Hector MacDonald, whose pitiable suicide, under charges of gross immorality, the British press has not yet ceased to discuss.

While the world wonders how a man of the glorious deeds of fighting Mac, the invincible soldier of more than thirty years of dauntless heroism mid tropic war and fields ensanguined, could fall so low, only the psychologist and neurologist knowing the tenure of normal psychic neurones and neuroglia and how they break and act abnormally under the stress of overaction and astonish us by erratic and often erotic instability, can comprehend such minds.

MacDonald did things which were as much a surprise and chagrin to himself as to the friends and companions in arms who knew him best. This once manly hero, accustomed to face death as nonchalantly as the maudlin puppets who so lavishly censure him in his mental misfortune, face a puppet show, burst into tears at the momentary realization in more lucid intervals of the enormity of his erratic impulses. hitherto regulated and restrained by the once strong high psychic which had on many a bloody field led serried columns to victory and renown for his country.

At the British war office the theory of insanity was quite