

of a week, that it was not my intention to allow him to be at large, he threw off his disguise and his insanity then became evident to every person who approached him.

"I remember," says the late Sir Henry Hallford, "hearing Lord Ellenborough express, in the strongest terms, his conviction that an insane person had completely recovered, after having observed him to sustain a lengthened conversation upon an important subject with great good sense and sobriety. Nevertheless this patient was detected, a few days afterwards, under the full influence of his delusion, using Latin however, to express his thoughts, that he might effectually elude, if possible, the watchful observation of his attendants."*

"The insane," says Esquirol, "group and arrange their ideas, carry on a reasonable conversation, defend their opinions with subtlety and even with rigid severity of logic, give very rational explanations, and justify their actions by highly plausible motives. When they have a great object to effect, they will combine all their means, seize every opportunity, remove all obstacles, have recourse to threats, force, cunning dissimulation, prayers, promises, and tears; they deceive the most experienced, their perseverance is indomitable, convinced that what they think is true, that what they wish is just and reasonable, they cannot be convinced of their error. The conviction is occasionally stronger than their judgment. You are right, said a lunatic to Esquirol, but you cannot convince me that you are so."†

Are phenomena like these susceptible of a psychological solution? There can be no doubt that in certain types of insanity, unconnected with much, if any, cerebral disorganization, the intellectual and perceptive faculties are, although influenced by the prevailing delusions, in a state of unnatural exaltation. In ordinary cases of disease implicating the brain producing a state of vascular congestion on its surface, or a great rapidity in the circulation of the blood through its vessels, the psychical functions are, generally, in an active state of manifestation.

In attacks of fever, accelerating the cerebral circulation and in the incipient stage of the brain affections of early life, the patient often exhibits an unnatural acuteness occasionally amounting to a brilliancy of intelligence. There is also great sensorial activity. Analogous phenomena are observed in some forms of ordinary cerebral disorder affecting the operation of thought; and on this principle we may in a measure physiologically and philosophically account for the subtlety and cunning of the insane. But does not the fact admit of another solution?

The *instinctive* appetites, as contradistinguished from the *intellectual* faculties, are as a general rule, in a state of activity, exaltation, and ascendancy, in many types of deranged, as well as originally defective and impaired mind. In the various gradations of imbecility and in some cases of profound idiocy, we often observe manifestation of the instincts. In the lower grades of stupidity and congenital idiocy, we occasionally see exhibited that extraordinary sagacity and cunning which is so characteristic of the higher class of animals. Mechanical ingenuity, acute sense of hearing, seeing, and smelling, as well as wonderful powers of adaptation to all possible physical conditions, are often observed among a certain class of the insane, utterly incapable of appreciating a rational idea. Hence, we may, to a certain extent, explain the *subtle instinctive sag-*

* Essays and Orations read and delivered at the Royal College of Physicians by Sir H. Hallford, Bart, M.D., p. 142.

† A patient, who was confined in a public asylum, stoutly and ingeniously maintained that he was considered and incarcerated as insane, because nature had blessed him with acuter powers of discernment, judgment, reason, and fancy, than his less fortunate neighbors. Unfortunately, however, he had not the good sense and prudence to conceal these superior gifts and endowments of mind from the observation, jealousy, and envy of his contemporaries; hence he was declared to be a lunatic, and sent to, and detained in, a madhouse.