of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh, lately had a strange experience. In the course of some recent repairs at his private asylum near Edinburgh. the workmen were strictly enjoined not to converse with any of the patients. One morning Sir John appeared on the scene and addressed a casual query to a painter. This merely elicited a stony stare. When the question was repeated the workman exclaimed: 'Awa' wi ye,' delectious deevil, I canna be bothered wi' ye.' Then, as if reflecting that this remonstrance was too crushing, he added in a gentler tone, 'But I'm sorry for ye a' the same.'

POST-OPERATIVE PSYCHOSES.

A contribution to the Study of Post-Operative Psychoses, by E. Schultze, appears in a recent issue of Zeitschrift fur Chirurgie. The writer agrees with those who believe that the so-called post-operative psychoses

in the vast majority of cases are not true pyschoses, but are forms of "post-operative delirium." True psychoses following operation are exceedingly uncommon.

The so-called post-operative psychosis may occur after any operation, but is most common in nervous patients—as in those suffering from Basedow's disease. In many cases there is an hereditary tendency to a disturbance of the mental balance.

In a large proportion of the cases such post-operative conditions as tox-amia, inanition, fever, weakness (as from carcinoma or chronic diseases), and abscess formation will be found as underlying causes of the disturbed mental state, and, when these conditions are removed (if their removal be possible) the psychosis will often disappear very rapidly. Under any circumstances, the prognosis is in general good, although some cases become chronic.

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