

this, that it was essential for a good result to know whether the cavity exposed was really the sphenoidal cavity, diminished by the enlarged sella turcica, or whether the ethmoidal labyrinth was still present. An x-ray photograph showed the distance between the root of the nose and the sella turcica to be six centimetres but as x-ray photographs are usually enlarged copies of the original the actual distance was computed to be 5·3 centimetres, and at this depth, after perforating another lamina of bone, a bluish tumour was visible; it was very soft and friable, and although carefully removed parts of it were lost in the blood. The greatest part of the tumour (about four-fifths) was extirpated in this way, but the remainder could not be got at without damaging the dura mater, so it was left behind. A large quantity of cerebro-spinal fluid escaped at the end of the operation. The cavity in the sella turcica was plugged with gauze dipped in balsam of Peru, a similar gauze drain was packed on the base of the skull, and both drains were led out towards the nose, which was replaced and carefully fixed in position with sutures. The after-history was uneventful. For the first few days cerebro-spinal fluid came out at the tip of the nose every few minutes. The headache completely vanished. The drains remained *in situ* for nine days and were not renewed. Except for an attack of erysipelas no trouble intervened and recovery was complete by the fifth week after the operation. The hemianopsia was the same as before, but the patient could enjoy life again. A curious fact was that his hair began to grow again everywhere; the explanation was not easy, perhaps the hypertrophy of the hypophysis produced an over-action of the organ, which was probably detrimental to the growth of hair. The examination of the removed parts proved them to be simply an enlarged hypophysis. Notable features of the operation were the unexpected ease with which the gland was reached, the small amount of hæmorrhage in the latter stages, and the absence of post-operative meningitis. No more than 20 cases of operation for such conditions are at present known and this is supposed to be the only successful one.

May 27th.

## AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

### *Epileptic Colony.*

THE first epileptic colony in Australia was opened by Lady Talbot just before she left Victoria. It is situated at Clayton on a block of 165 acres of fertile land presented by Mr. Mason. Accommodation will be afforded for 70 patients, at a cost of about £7000. It is intended to make the institution so far as possible self-supporting from the start, using the land for farming and raising bees, silk, and flowers.

### *Hospital Matters.*

During a recent inquest on the body of a child who had previously attended at the Melbourne Children's Hospital it was disclosed that it was the custom of the resident medical staff to give death certificates on information obtained from the hospital records. The coroner said it was a practice that should be stopped.—At a recent meeting of the committee of the Western Suburbs Cottage Hospital (Sydney) attention was drawn to several cases which were admitted to the hospital on the recommendation of outside medical practitioners, though the patients were well able to afford private treatment. A resolution was passed asking the coöperation of residents in seeing that only deserving cases among the poor of the district are sent in for treatment.—Tenders have been accepted for the erection of a consumption block at the Hospital for Incurables, Waterfall, New South Wales.

### *Pollution of Sydney Water-supply.*

The Sydney Water and Sewage Board has endeavoured to get the public works department to take measures to prevent pollution of the Sydney water-supply from the Cataract River, but the department is not inclined to do anything as the Government analyst was of opinion that the water was not so bad as Dr. E. S. Stokes, the board's medical officer, stated. Dr. Stokes never said that it was injurious to health but that it contained a large amount of organic matter. The board passed a resolution at its last meeting earnestly requesting the Minister of Public Works to allow the board to clear

away as much as possible of the vegetable matter in the catchment area.

### *Nuisance from George's River, Liverpool.*

Dr. W. G. Armstrong, medical officer of health of the metropolitan district, New South Wales, has furnished a report on the alleged nuisance at Liverpool caused by pollution of the George's River. He finds that the river is grossly polluted, mainly from wool-washing, and that wastes therefrom should be satisfactorily purified before they are admitted to the river and that wool-washing and fell-mongering should be proclaimed as noxious trades.

### *Aid to Friendly Societies.*

The Premier of New South Wales announced at a demonstration given by the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows on April 9th that the Government proposed to aid the friendly societies by giving—

1. One-third of the cost after 12 months' sickness of all members under the age of 65 years, or being women, under the age of 60.

2. To pay the whole cost of sick pay for all members over the age of 65 in the case of men, and over the age of 60 in the case of women. The cost to the State not to exceed 3s. 4d. per week under 65, nor 5s. per week over 65—

subject to the following conditions:—

(a) That sickness fund is proved solvent by valuation and that a pro-rata reduction be made on certificate of registrar of friendly societies, according to degree of insolvency; (b) where no previous valuation and degree of insolvency unascertained, half rates payable until first valuation.

Medical attendance cost to be paid for all members above 65 (females 60). Trustees of society to pay subvention into proper funds and to render adjustment vouchers to Government. Registrar of friendly societies to tabulate and certify as to sickness. Payment conditioned on due observance of requirements under Friendly Societies Acts. Friendly societies may provide in their rules for raising moneys for purchase of annuity grants for their members. Any surplus appearing on valuation of friendly society may be devoted to the purchase of Government annuity for its members.

### *Action against a Dentist.*

A dentist was the defendant in a recent action in Sydney to recover £100 compensation for injuries alleged to have been received by the plaintiff through negligence of the defendant in extracting her teeth. The plaintiff had a number of teeth extracted under an anæsthetic. She subsequently became very ill with lung trouble and finally coughed up a tooth four months afterwards. The judge said the evidence clearly showed that the plaintiff's illness was due to the defendant's action and negligence and gave a verdict for £75.

April 23rd.

**IRISH MEDICAL SCHOOLS' AND GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION.**—A smoking concert in connexion with this association will be held at the Café Monico, Piccadilly Circus, W., on Thursday evening next, June 6th, at 9 P.M. Members can obtain tickets from Mr. E. Canny Ryall, 77, Harley-street, London, W.

**CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.**—A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held on May 17th at Caxton House, Westminster, Dr. F. H. Champneys being in the chair. The Board considered charges as stated after their names against the following midwives whose names were ordered to be erased. Sarah Scott, that at a confinement she did not send for a medical man, the patient being ill with a high temperature. Mary Broxson, that at a confinement she did not send for a medical man on the occurrence of rigor. Ellen Lang, that at a confinement the perineum being ruptured she did not send for a medical man. Mary Lewin, that at a confinement she did not send for a medical man, the patient suffering from puerperal fever. Emma Applegate, that at a confinement the child when born being apparently in a dying condition she did not send for a medical man. Bridget Duffy, that at a confinement, the child being stillborn and no registered medical practitioner being in attendance, she failed to notify the occurrence to the local supervising authority. Mary Elliott, that at a confinement she was intoxicated. Mary Dunn, that she had been convicted of keeping a disorderly house. Martha Ann Laurance, that at a confinement she was guilty of negligence and misconduct. Elizabeth Jane Brennand, Charlotte Hales, and Emma Page, that they persistently refused to provide themselves with the appliances and antiseptics required by Rule E. 2. After charges had been considered against the following midwives they were censured by the Board: Ellen Pomfret, Catherine Johnson Waugh, and Louisa Wood. After charges against the following midwives had been considered they were cautioned by the Board: Hannah Rhodes, Mary Ann Smith, and Mary Upton.