

## Online archive 27b

### Question papers – Gaskell Prize and Medal (1897)

*The Gaskell Medal and Prize was established in 1886 in memory of Samuel Gaskell FRCS, Medical Superintendent of Lancashire County Asylum and a Lunacy Commissioner. It has been awarded annually by examination since that date. At one time only those who had passed one of the Association's (short-lived) medical examinations were allowed to sit, but this restriction was rescinded. The examination generally consisted of a clinical, a written paper and an oral. An example of the Question Paper for 1897 is given here.*

#### *First Paper*

1. 'Total loss of memory.' Examine this expression, and indicate the cases to which it is strictly applicable.
2. Under what circumstances is the emotion of sexual modesty normally experienced? Are these circumstances uniform for all people? Give instances of pathological defect, and excess of this emotion.
3. Describe accurately the meaning that you attach to the expression 'loss of control.' What cause do you assign to this condition?
4. What is believed to be the anatomical relation of the neurons with each other?
5. Give in full the pathological changes found in the Cerebral Cortex in Chronic Epilepsy. How do they agree with or differ from those of Chronic Alcoholism?
6. What are the degenerations found macroscopically and microscopically in the bones in General Paralysis of the Insane?

#### *Second Paper*

1. What forms of insanity are associated with Phthisis, and in what ways are they associated? What bearing has the association with Phthisis upon the prognosis of insanity?
2. A man is indicted for the murder of his child. It is proved in evidence that his mother and several of his maternal relatives have been insane, and that he has himself suffered from epilepsy; that he had always lived on affectionate terms with his wife and child; that one night, after a friendly conversation with his wife, he had gone downstairs, fetched a razor, and with it had cut her throat; that, at

- least three hours afterwards, he had cut the throat of the child. Insanity is pleaded. What evidence of opinion could an expert properly give in support of this plea? State fully the grounds of your opinion.
3. Are there any circumstances in which an insane person is fit to be at large? If so, state the circumstances.
  4. Give in detail the Oculo-motor symptoms and altered tendon reflexes found in General Paralysis of the Insane, explaining how they vary in the course of the disease.
  5. What arguments can you adduce in favour of the septic or toxic origin of Puerperal Insanity proper? What line of medical treatment would you advocate for this disease?
  6. What are the mental symptoms in Morphinomania? Discuss the validity of a will made by a morphinomaniac shortly after admission into an asylum.