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bullying to which they had been subjected and submitted to appropriate training. In all the cases I have met with of moral insanity there has been marked antecedent neurotic history.

This is a convenient place to treat of an interesting class of cases for which the term "idiots savants" has been given, and of which a considerable number have come under my observation. This name has been applied to children who, while feeble-minded, exhibit special faculties which are capable of being cultivated to a very great extent. One youth was under my care who could build exquisite model ships from drawings, and carve with a great deal of skill, who yet could not understand a sentence—who had to have it dissected for him, and who, when writing to his mother copied *verbatim* a letter from 'The Life of Captain Hedley Vicars,' by Miss Marsh, although it had not the slightest appropriateness in word or sentiment. Another has been under my care who can draw in crayons with marvellous skill and feeling, in whom nevertheless there was a comparative blank in all the higher faculties of mind.

Extraordinary memory is often met with associated with very great defect of reasoning

power. A boy came under my observation who, having once read a book, could ever more remember it. He would recite all the answers in 'Magnall's Questions' without an error, giving in detail the numbers in the astronomical division with the greatest accuracy. I discovered, however, that it was simply a process of verbal adhesion. I once gave him Gibbon's 'Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire' to read. This he did, and on reading the third page he skipped a line, found out his mistake and retraced his steps; ever after, when reciting from memory the stately periods of Gibbon, he would, on coming to the third page, skip the line and go back and correct the error with as much regularity as if it had been part of the regular text. Later on his memory for recent reading became less tenacious, but his recollection of his earlier readings never failed him. Another boy can tell the tune, words, and number of nearly every hymn in 'Hymns Ancient and Modern.' Often the memory takes the form of remembering dates and past events. Several children under my observation have had this faculty in an extraordinary degree. One boy never fails to be able to tell the name and

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address of every confectioner's shop that he has visited in London—and they have been numerous—and can as readily tell the date of every visit. Another can tell the time of arrival of all the children at an institution, and could supply accurate records in relation to it if needed. Another knows the home address of every resident who comes under his observation, and they are by no means few. The faculty of number is usually slightly developed with feeble-minded children while memory is fairly well developed, and yet I have had under my observation cases where the power of mental arithmetic existed to an astonishing extent. One boy, about twelve years of age, could multiply any three figures by three figures with perfect accuracy, and as quickly as I could write the six figures on paper, and yet, so low mentally was he, that although having been for two and a half years in almost the daily habit of seeing me and talking to me, could not tell my name. Another boy who has recently been under my observation can multiply two figures by two figures, while another can multiply rapidly two figures by two, and a short time since could multiply three figures by three

figures, but since an epileptiform attack has lost this faculty to some extent. None of them can explain how they do it, I mean, by what mental process. When by rare chance they have made a mistake, and some hesitation has arisen, it has appeared to me, the plan has been, to clear off the multiplication of the higher figures first. Improvisation is an occasional faculty. I had a boy under my care who could take up a book, pretending to read, an art he had not acquired, and improvise stories of all kinds with a great deal of skill, and in any variety, to suit the supposed tastes of his auditors.

Memory of tune is a very common faculty among the feeble-minded; they readily acquire simple airs, and rarely forget them. I have had one boy under my observation who, if he went to an opera, would carry away a recollection of all the airs, and would hum or sing them correctly. In none of the cases of "idiot savant" have I been able to trace any history of a like faculty in the parents or in the brothers and sisters, nor have I had any opportunity of making an autopsy, except in one instance. This was in the case of a boy who

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had a very unusual faculty, of which I have never since met another example, viz. the perfect appreciation of past or passing time. He was seventeen years of age, and although not understanding, so far as I could gather, the use of a clock-face, could tell the time to a minute at any part of the day, and in any situation. I tried him on numberless occasions, and he always answered with an amount of precision truly remarkable. Gradually his response became less ready, and he would not or could not reply unless he was a little excited. He had to be shaken like an old watch, and then the time would be truly given. Gradually his health became enfeebled and the faculty departed. At an autopsy I found that there was no difference in his cerebrum from an ordinary brain, except that he had two well-marked and distinct soft commissures. My explanation of the phenomenon was that as every movement in the house was absolutely punctual he had data from which he could estimate the time by accurate appreciation of its flux. All these cases of "idiots savants" were males; I have never met with a female.

It happens to the congenitally feeble-minded as to the strong-minded to have deviations from