

of the series cases in which the symptoms of lateral sclerosis predominate, and in which the symptoms of the anterior horn affection are almost entirely in abeyance.

We think it might have been better if an attempt had been made to classify the myopathies more succinctly. In view of Erb's recent monograph there seems now little doubt that pseudohypertrophic paralysis, Erb's juvenile type of muscular atrophy, and Duchenne's infantile form (identical with the facio-scapulo humeral type of Landouzy and Dejerine) are all phases of one disease, and it may be that some other types also would be more conveniently described as cases of different forms of muscular dystrophy.

The book is an interesting one, and it is comprehensive in its classification. It has also the lucidity which we now naturally expect in French neurological works. The plates are extremely good, and if there is nothing that is absolutely new in the work it has the merit of presenting familiar and unfamiliar facts and problems in a manner which cannot fail to interest the reader.

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*The Pathology of the Blood in the Insane.* By Wm. H. HARRISON, M.D., Pathologist of the State Lunatic Hospital, Harrisburg.

We have before us a reprint from *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania*, 1896, on the "Pathology of the Blood in the Insane," by Wm. H. Harrison, M.D., Pathologist of the State Lunatic Hospital, Harrisburg. Much has previously been written on this subject, one of the first accurate workers in this field being Lander Lindsay. He came to the conclusion, after careful investigation, that there was no condition of blood peculiar to the insane. That the quantity and quality of blood can alter mentalisation is an established fact; the irritability of gout, the melancholia of chronic jaundice, the delirium of fevers, etc., being well-known examples. Although Dr. Harrison's paper establishes nothing new, it throws several new lights on the subject, and impresses on us the vast importance of attention to the condition of the blood in our treatment of the insane.

He pleads for the necessity of regular examination of the blood, whereby we may be guided in our dietary, and medical and hygienic treatment of the insane. In mania there was usually oligocythæmia, according to deterioration

of physical health. At first there may be polycythæmia, due to secretive activity and to energetic action of the emunctories, and, as a consequence, a rapid drain of water and an increase of hæmoglobin, red and white cells, and blood plaques in proportion. This reminds us of the algid stage of cholera. In an exhausted maniac the number of red cells per c.m.m. was 8,000,000, and on a liberal supply of water being given at frequent intervals, in about ten hours there was a reduction of red cells to 4,000,000. In some cases of mania, after ample diet and fluids, the red cells were greatly increased above normal. Dr. Harrison here asks:—"Cannot we infer from experience that exaltation extends to the red cell-making power and that of the plaques? And is there not a corresponding increase of reproduction in the amoeboids?" We forbear answering these speculative questions. In melancholia the diminution of red cells was greater than in mania. "The profounder the melancholia the greater the diminution, as in the hyperacute." In dementia also, oligocythæmia was the rule. In a case at Kirkbride's Hospital it was as low as 918,000. In many cases of secondary dementia, however, the diminution was slight; many of them increasing in weight and becoming well nourished, with hæmoglobin, though below normal, of a pretty fair figure. An interesting fact brought out was that the disproportion of red to white cells and to the blood plaques was more common in dementia than in acute exaltation or depression, although it is even uncommon in dementa. During and immediately following convulsions in epilepsy in many cases there was an increase of cellular elements, and after some hours a corresponding diminution. At Kirkbride's Hospital a parietic, well nourished, but having ataxia of limbs and speech and delusions of grandeur, after finishing a creditable "home run" in a game of base-ball, developed the remarkable increase of 8,741,207. Microcytes, macrocytes, and in some cases poikilocytes, were seen frequently, also in others a remarkable degree of leucocytosis was found. The paper is extremely interesting although some of its statements must be received with considerable reserve. In view of the increasing importance of the chemistry of the brain in insanity, a field so neglected in this country, some investigations with regard to the chemistry of the blood in insanity would be of great interest.