

hypnotic of the year is sulphonal, discovered by Bauman. The length of its name must satisfy the most pedantic of chemists—diæthylsulphondimethylmethan. The results of experiments made by numerous observers are recorded, all in favour of the drug, although it seems to fail in producing sleep in some instances. We have found it of the utmost use in doses varying from 15 grains to a drachm. Dr. Brush has used it in doses ranging from 10 to 30 grains in acute and chronic insanity, alcoholism, the opium habit, insomnia, hypochondriasis, and hysteria. Dr. Brush found that it acted very satisfactorily in alcoholism and the opium habit, but whether it was useful in the other forms is not stated. Fischer, of Budapesth, is quoted as having found antifebrin especially valuable in neuralgia, and some cases of headache, in doses of from 7 to 20 grains, while as a hypnotic he found it uncertain.

From the above it will be seen how valuable a *résumé* is given in this retrospect in regard to one point. A book which comes out every year and keeps its readers *au courant* with all that is doing in the various departments of medicine must obviously be a great boon to physicians and general practitioners. We might, of course, illustrate this by any number of examples similar to what we have given, but enough has been said to support the statement with which we commenced this notice, and we have no doubt that every medical library and many private persons will become possessed of this meritorious publication.

The work is in five parts, is illustrated, and is splendidly got up. Dr. Sajous has laid the profession under a deep debt of gratitude for the care and labour he has bestowed upon it.

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*Les Aliénés en 1789 et en 1889.* Par le Dr. E. Régis. Bordeaux: Feret and Fils, 1889.

This pamphlet of twenty pages is the first of a course of Lectures on mental medicine delivered by Dr. Régis, at Bordeaux. The lecturer, formerly the head of the *clinique* of mental disorders in the Paris Faculty of Medicine, and at the present time the physician of the Maison de Santé of Castel d'Andorte, Bordeaux, states that the Faculty of Medicine of that town does not possess a chair of Psychological Medicine. He therefore is a volunteer who now, and for some years, has

endeavoured to supply a gratuitous course of lectures. As will be seen from the title, this discourse consists of a historical sketch. The lamentable condition of the insane in France, Germany, and England, at the close of the last century is described. The subsequent reforms are sketched, and no more said than is due to the courage and philanthropy of the never-to-be-forgotten hero of 1792. Ample justice is done to the corresponding movement in England commenced at York, and Dr. Régis, with great breadth of view and good feeling, refuses to regard the petty question of the priority of particular men in the initiation of the reforms which ultimately proved so beneficial to humanity. On the contrary, he thinks it preferable "les confondre dans une mutuelle admiration."

The lecturer does not close without impressing on his hearers the duty of not only applauding the deeds of our ancestors, but of advancing forward ourselves and securing by our own exertions the progressive amelioration of the condition of the insane.

We can only hope that the Bordeaux Faculty of Medicine will establish a chair of Psychological Medicine, and place Dr. Régis in it.

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*An Epitome of the Synthetic Philosophy.* By F. HOWARD COLLINS. 1889.

The author has endeavoured to give us in this volume the principles of Mr. Herbert Spencer's synthetic philosophy in a condensed form, and in order to do this, the "First Principles," "Principles of Biology," "Psychology," "Sociology," and "Morality" have been divested of their illustrative material, and nearly nine-tenths of the original matter eliminated.

When we consider the difficulties of such an undertaking we cannot fail to give credit to the author. Mr. Spencer has himself expressed surprise that so much could have been put into so small a space without sacrifice of intelligibility, and at the same time he acknowledged that the condensed statements were correct and clear. To the student of Spencer this volume should be especially valuable, although possibly a perfect comprehension of the cardinal principles of his philosophy, presented as they are in a series of abstract propositions, may prove a formidable and tiresome task without the aid of concrete illustrations.