

a moral insanity must be recorded. The medico-legal aspects of the actions of morphino-maniacs are considered towards the end of the chapter. Dr. Régnier teaches that each case must be dealt with on its merits after careful examination of the patient, but he insists that an essential point to be determined is whether the patient was in a condition of temporary abstinence from morphia or not—the responsibility is less if in such state, and especially if the privation from morphia has lasted some hours. Criminal acts committed in such state have in view mostly the obtaining of the drug; if, therefore, the accused should have been in possession of the drug before the commission of the act, this act would bear another complexion as to its motive.

In detecting the disease the cunning of the patient may completely outwit the medical man; it is therefore necessary to remember that the examination of the urine for morphia may yield conclusive proof of the habit, but precautions must be taken to ensure that the urine is really the patient's.

Lastly, the interesting phenomena of abstinence are detailed, and the several modes of treatment considered. The records of a large number of cases complete the work. We have much pleasure in recommending Dr. Régnier's treatise as a carefully-executed work.

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*Mad Doctors, by one of them: Being a Defence of asylum physicians against recent aspersions cast upon them, and an examination into the functions of the Lunacy Commission, together with a scheme of Lunacy Reform.*

This is the scope of the pamphlet published anonymously by Messrs. Swan and Sonnenschein, and sold for one shilling.

We can vouch for the stimulating shilling's worth, and feel sure that those of our readers who buy and read it will have their fun for their money, and will certainly be impressed with the directness and aim of the writer and the unflinching character of his criticisms.

As we have said, the name is concealed, and we have no clue as to the writer, and we should prefer not to discover it, for though vigorous, the paper is, to our thinking, too personal, so that it is in danger of giving the idea, however unjustly, that personal antipathy had something to do with its origin. It attacks undoubted abuses, and suggests

remedies, and as a piece of strong writing we welcome it, not overlooking its faults of taste.

The pamphlet is divided into five chapters, consisting of an introduction, a chapter on lunatics at large, one on lunatics under key, another on remedial proposals, and finally a summary of the whole. The author shows himself in the introduction to be a medical agnostic and one who would not give very blind faith to his professional brethren, unless he were ill. He ranges himself among the *practical* men as against the more scientific, though for the life of us we cannot see the advantage of a man who is only practical over one who, besides that, uses the experience of others as recorded in books and papers. Doubtless there are a large number of useful practical men in our branch of the profession, men whom it would be hard to equal and impossible to beat in the amount of practical good work they do in the world ; but with all their virtues we believe their power dies with them and does not in the end lead to such good results for the race as will follow on good scientific work. But to our task of reviewing. We quite agree with the author that the golden rule of medicine is to avert the tendency to death and to place the patient in the best possible conditions for recovery. The reason given in the introduction for the appearance of the *brochure* is that "an insignificant clique in the London County Council has issued a quasi-medical report which deals with the treatment of lunatics, and is absolutely unique in the number of feeble commonplaces it contains." This is the text, and our author sticks pretty closely to it. As to the taste of the personal part of the paper we will not inquire, but men who feel strongly act at times hastily, or with an appearance of temper, which is not altogether without use when grave social questions are at stake. And what more grave can a man feel to be at stake than the honour of himself, and of his friends and fellow-workers? No one will deny that for the treatment of the insane practical experience is worth a ton of theory, and that he makes the best Commissioner who has had the most experience of the insane in all their relationships. We cannot agree with the author in all he says as to the inspection of asylums and of the insane, though we do feel that the Commissioners, as at present constituted, are not a body numerous and strong enough to do all that is required of them. They do their work as well as they can, but they are over-burdened.

We will summarize the chapter on remedial proposals, as this shows the scope of the work. Proposal 1 is that there should be more special reception wards for the acute, presumably curable cases; 2, That the Commissioners should be done away with, as, according to the writer, they have a number of general fads, and a good many particular ones, and are quite unable to be of service to the insane; 3, Instead of the Commissioners there should be district inspectors appointed for each division of the country; these inspectors are to be numerous, and are to have personal knowledge of lunacy and of asylums (we wonder where they are to be found?); 4, these inspectors would have also frequently to visit the wards of the workhouses in which insane patients are detained. Proposal 5 is that the present mode of asylum management should continue, but that medical officers should be increased so that none has more than 300 under his care at a time; other changes are suggested, such as having an assistant superintendent, under such conditions as will develop the clinical work of asylums. 6, There should be in every large town receiving hospitals for all acute nervous mental patients outside certification.

The whole plan may be regarded as a practical substitution of the scheme of the County Council, with the essential difference that it is arranged by a man with daily experience of the requirements and with a just appreciation of what can and what cannot be done by the means suggested. The pamphlet must be read to be appreciated, and is so vigorous that it gives one quite a healthy stimulus to go on in the path of duty, however toilful it may be just now.

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*Locke.* By ALEXANDER CAMPBELL FRASER, Hon. D.C.L. Oxford, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, University of Edinburgh. William Blackwood and Sons: Edinburgh and London. 1890. (With portrait.)

One more admirable addition to the series of the "Philosophical Classics for English Readers," edited by Professor William Knight, whose selection of writers has been most fortunate. It is a great quality in an editor to know and to choose the best men for the special work assigned them. Few characters appeal more powerfully to the intelligence and even the affection of British thinkers than John Locke. He was a philosopher, a psychologist, a hard thinker;