

conditions the bromide can substitute itself for the chloride of sodium in the tissues, and hence, by a more intimate contact, influence more powerfully the cell activities.

Fifteen cases were selected for trial. During a period of ten months these were subjected to bromide treatment with ordinary diet; during the two following months the bromide was withdrawn, the diet continuing unchanged; the Toulouse-Richet method was then pursued during one month; and then finally the patient reverted to ordinary diet and bromide for another seven months.

The results of these trials certainly do not prove the value of the method; they may be described as negative. But then the lines of the experiments do not appear to us to have been very judiciously laid down. Why the two months' period of complete withdrawal of the bromide before commencing the Toulouse-Richet method? This must of necessity have disturbed the balance reached during the bromide and ordinary diet period, with the result that the effect of the hypochlorised diet of the Toulouse-Richet method did not come in direct juxtaposition to the ordinary diet period, though this was what we wanted. Then, too, why the short period of the Toulouse-Richet method? This is meaningless. The periods should be of equal duration. Two of the fifteen cases selected for observation died after the commencement of the Toulouse-Richet method, but also after this treatment had been abandoned; in the one case there had been thirteen days of treatment, in the other seventeen days. It does not appear at all clear that the method had anything to do with the death. Somewhat illogically, so it appears to us, the authors, whilst denying any curative value to the method, admit that it does develop the action of the bromide; indeed, they ascribe the two deaths to this over-action. But unless they are prepared to deny any therapeutic value to the bromides this admission asserts all that MM. Toulouse and Richet have claimed, *viz.*, that the activity of the bromides is heightened by the withdrawal of salt from the dietary. This is their teaching, and their recommendation is to *reduce the dose of bromide* when passing from a full saline dietary to a hypochlorised diet.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

Pseudo-epilepsies and the Relief of Some Forms by Thyroid. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, Oct., 1902.) *Browning.*

The following are some of Dr. Browning's conclusions:

1. "In the young there occurs a class of cases characterised by recurrent attacks of heterogeneous type, and that may conveniently be called pseudo-epilepsy."

Our comment is that to give a name to anything so nondescript as his class of cases would be most unwise.

2. "This form is curable."

But we must add it is so nondescript that the fear is that it will never be diagnosed.

5. "Troubles of this kind, when due to rachitis, are amenable to thyroid treatment."

That will be unexpected, inasmuch as thyroid is not a recognised treatment for rickets.

These three from among his seven conclusions we may quote. They are not at all satisfying ; but, indeed, the whole paper appears to us most inconclusive.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

5. Sociology.

Juvenile Murderers and Homicides [*Ueber jugendliche Mörder und Todtschläger*]. (*Arch. f. Kriminalanthropologie, Bd. xi.*) Baer.

This paper is one of the most notable contributions of recent years to the anthropological and psychological study of the juvenile criminal. It is based on careful observation of a series of twenty-two youthful assassins who were under the author's care for considerable periods of time in the Plötzensee Prison at Berlin. Full notes are given of each case, comprising a history of the crime, the personal and family antecedents of the criminal, his physical and mental condition, with anthropometric details, and, in most of the observations, with good photographs of the individual at different ages. The main facts brought out by the inquiry are then summarised, and their bearing on various problems of criminology is discussed with that union of thoroughness of method and breadth of view which invariably distinguishes Dr. Baer's work. A paper of this scope and character cannot, of course, be adequately treated within the limits of a short notice, and the present *résumé* does not aim at more than indicating a few of its salient points.

Of the twenty-two murderers, three were aged 14 to 15 years, three 15 to 16, eight 16 to 17, and eight 17 to 18. Only six of the cases were crimes of passion—revenge, jealousy of comrade's success, etc. In three others the motive was to gain a change from reformatory to prison ; and in the remaining thirteen the object was robbery. In nearly all the instances the crime was of a very revolting brutality, so that the series may be fairly taken to represent juvenile delinquency at its worst. It becomes, therefore, a question of interest whether these criminals presented the anatomical characters supposed by the Italian school to be distinctive of the "*reo nato*," and more particularly of the assassin type. The author's answer is unhesitatingly in the negative : —"Neither in the general formation of the skull, nor in that of the face and the rest of the skeleton, could any peculiar characters be detected showing a specific deviation from the normal condition of development of individuals of the same age, belonging to the same race and social class." In many of the cases, no doubt, physical stigmata of degeneracy were present, but they were not different in kind, degree, or combination from those met with in the non-criminal degenerate.

In these youths, as in all classes of criminals, intellectual and affective anomalies were frequent and well marked. In ten instances the mental condition was one of pronounced defect ; and at least five of the other cases had episodic attacks of depression with suicidal impulses. Two of the prisoners became insane after some years' imprisonment ; and in