

distance from the pavilion or block for the "agitateés." The word "block" would, however, convey a false impression if it were supposed to resemble those of Caterham and Leavesden. The structure is much lighter, and altogether more agreeable to the eye. The only criticism one feels inclined to make in going over one of the French asylums which owe their original inspiration to Esquirol, is, that the uniformity of the plan is a little monotonous, and the squares or enclosures formed by the blocks and galleries give an uncomfortable impression to the visitor of being imprisoned within somewhat circumscribed and rectangular bounds—a remark which would not apply to the courts situated on the outer side of the buildings, which command a fine view when the asylum is in the country. Another criticism may be permitted, namely, that the cellules are usually too isolated and distant.

M. Dumesnil, Inspector of Asylums, was formerly the superintendent of Quatre-Mares. In the absence of the present superintendent, Dr. Achille Foville, Dr. Rousselin (superintendent of St.-Yon) showed the members over the Institution, entertained them at a luncheon, and, in short, devoted himself throughout the day to their convenience. Dr. Foville's absence was occasioned by the recent death of his distinguished father, at an advanced age. As the author, many years ago, of a remarkable work on the *Convulsions of the Brain*, with beautifully executed plates, the memory of the former physician of Charenton deserves a tribute of respect, and, from those who knew him, of affection also.

We have heard the French compared to the Greeks. In one point, however, they differed on this occasion. The latter, it is said, held that in order to do anything well, you must first dine well. The French, on the contrary, made the members of the Congress dine well, in Rouen, at the *close* of their labours.

And so ended the International Congress of Mental Medicine.
D. H. T.

Friendly Talk with a New Patient—Visiting Day at the Asylum—Work in the Wards by Asylum Attendants. By Rev. H. HAWKINS.

Although in some respects outside our immediate groove of action as medical men, we cordially welcome the series of little books, of which these form a part, written by the estimable

Chaplain of the Colney Hatch Asylum. Mr. Hawkins is not one of those asylum chaplains who regard the office in a perfunctory light, and simply go through their work mechanically, as a dull necessity, conscious that the good done to the patients is infinitesimally small, and are hard set, as the year comes round, to prepare their Report. We sincerely pity such, and should recommend them to quit a post for which neither nature nor grace has fitted them. We give this advice deliberately, because we hold that, rightly performed, the duties of an asylum chaplain are of a most useful and honourable kind. So long as the physician-in-chief is in no degree or way interfered with, and everything is done with his sanction, much good may be and is effected. Where, subject to these guards, chaplains throw their energies into their work, and feel a real interest in individual patients, they prove most valuable aides-de-camp to the physician. When we place before us our *beau idéal* of an asylum chaplain, and compare it with the average actual fulfilment in flesh and blood, the contrast is rather greater than we could have wished.

In Mr. Hawkins we recognise the right man in the right place; and, so long as judgment and discretion, combined with a full recognition of the physical disease under which the insane labour, are preserved, the utility of such efforts as those made by him, and of which these tractates are the outcome, must be great, and ought to be hailed with satisfaction by Medical Superintendents. As divines and doctors have, in this respect, one common object in view—that of restoring the diseased cerebro-mental organ to healthy action—they ought to be able to work harmoniously and successfully together. Such advice as the following, in “Friendly Talk with a Patient,” is judiciously and simply expressed: “One very important means to secure cheerfulness is employment. If you would be cheerful, employ yourself. Avoid idleness. Laziness is accompanied by melancholy. Seek for something to do. Any harmless employment is better than none. Even the commonest occupation about the room would afford you an opportunity of usefulness, and prevent your thoughts from dwelling too much upon yourself and your troubles.” Again, “Conform cheerfully to the rules of the establishment. No institution, large or small, can be well ordered unless its regulations are observed; and you will not only contribute to the well-being of the community, but also promote your own comfort, and gain the respect and regard of others, if you readily fall in with the rules which have been laid down for the common advantage.” The

advice to those visiting the Asylum is also judicious, and often much needed: "Well-meaning, but inconsiderate visitors, sometimes do their friends harm by thoughtless conversation. Do not make your friend's heart ache by referring to his own troubles, unless there is real necessity to do this. Do not anywhere, but especially in an asylum, be what is called a 'croaker.'" These extracts will serve to convince our readers that Mr. Hawkins is a sound counsellor, both for patients and their friends, and that the Superintendents of Asylums might advantageously possess themselves of copies of his books for distribution. That bearing the title "Work in the Wards," is full of wise counsel. We sincerely wish them a large circulation.

De quelques accidents de l'épilepsie et de l'hystéro-épilepsie.
Par EMILLE BOVELL, M.D. (Paris.) Paris, 1877.

This production is one of the many evidences of the extraordinary amount of interest which epilepsy and hystero-epilepsy excite at the present day. In France, England, and America the attention directed to the character and pathology of these affections has produced a crop of works on the subject. In Paris the researches of the distinguished Charcot have thrown a special charm over the study of hystero-epilepsy. Probably they have had some influence in suggesting the inquiry undertaken in the brochure whose title heads this notice, the main object of which is to investigate certain complications of the epileptic crisis, with and without hysteria. The author gives a *résumé* of observations already published in regard to congestions following—(1) Lesions of the brain and cord from various morbid causes; (2) traumatic lesions of the brain or cord; (3) experimental lesions; (4) hysterical attacks. In hysteria and epilepsy little is known of these morbid phenomena, because death rarely follows an attack of hysteria, and because those phenomena of an epileptic attack which are studied by the author have received disproportionately little attention. This portion of the essay contains a number of interesting cases, in which visceral congestions, succeeding the above-mentioned states, assume the form of renal, hepatic and pulmonary disease, joint-affections, cutaneous disorders, rise of temperature in the parts paralysed, &c. These cases are followed by another series, in which albuminuria, glycosuria, retinal congestion