

The great number of references at the end of the article does much credit to the industry and learning of the author. W. W. IRELAND.

*On the Mental Disturbances of Epileptics* [*Beitrag zur Kenntniss der Seelenstorungen der Epileptiker*]. (*Allgem. Zeits. f. Psychiat., B. lvi, H. 5, 1899.*) Deiters.

Dr. Deiters commences his article by stating that, since Samt's investigations on the forms of epileptic insanity, it has generally been recognised that the mental symptoms are very characteristic; indeed, some hold that the presence of epilepsy may sometimes be inferred from the psychical manifestations alone. Sometimes, however, insanity combined with epileptic seizures takes a different character, approaching the forms of other vesaniæ. He gives at some length the description of a patient fifty-five years old, who had epilepsy combined with delusions of a paranoid nature. He had led a vagabond life, had been in prison for stealing, and had been passed on to a workhouse as incapable of earning a livelihood. When admitted to the asylum at Andernach, he was found to be lazy and indifferent, to have religious delusions, and suspicions of being poisoned. He said that at night people put "oprigus" under his nose, and that he was going to be made pope. Finally, he imagined that he was actually crowned as pope, and that Christ had appeared to him and held a chalice over his head, etc. Other cases of hallucination and systematised delusions have been described by Gnauck, Pohl, Buchholz, and others. Magnan thought that several psychoses might exist together. Deiters observes that the forms of insanity which he specifies are technical divisions rather than specific diseases, but that fairly distinct forms may supervene the one upon the other. He thinks that the mind never remains intact after repeated epileptic seizures. Epilepsy prepares the ground for insane ideas, but the character and sequence of these ideas may now and then take an unusual course. W. W. IRELAND.

*A Clinical Lecture on Minor Epilepsy.* (*Brit. Med. Journ., Jan. 6th, 1900.*) Gowers, Sir William.

The lecturer begins by discussing some of the features which belong to epilepsy as a whole, pointing out the paroxysmal nature of the disease, and emphasising the fact that the seizures are symptoms of an underlying brain condition. In this connection, he gives a good working clinical classification, dividing the malady into organic and idiopathic forms. As he remarks, in order to learn we classify and separate, but we must remember that nature does not recognise our sharp distinctions, and gives many examples of an intermediate class. These come between *haut mal* and *petit mal*, and may be termed medium epilepsy. Having thus introduced his subject he passes to the minor form of the idiopathic variety, describing the phenomena which it includes and which are its manifestations. He teaches that the most typical form is when there is loss of consciousness as the only symptom, but denies the prevalent idea that loss of consciousness is essential. There is, he admits, always a perversion or obscur-