

An examination of his further utterances shows that he does possess some acquaintance with asylums, if even of somewhat remote date, and that his assumptions are not entirely due to mere want of information.

This critic is, or professes to be, ignorant of the work done by Drs. Bolton, Bruce, Campbell, Bevan Lewis, Mott, Orr, Ford Robertson, Rows, Turner, and a host of other workers, whose work is in evidence not only in this and all other medical journals, but in special archives, and occasionally in the *Reports of the Royal Society*; work, in fact, which in its originality, variety, and scientific method will compare favourably with the output of that produced by an equal number of medical men engaged in hospital practice. Indeed, if there are eliminated from the ranks of our specialty a large number of junior medical officers, who are mere birds of passage, it may be safely asserted that the contrast of scientific output would be in favour of the alienist in the public asylum.

Pathology in Asylums.

The criticisms on the scientific work of asylum medical officers suggest that to remove the ignorance which prevails in regard to the investigations being made in asylums, especially in pathological matters, there should be a closer connection between the asylums and universities or medical colleges in this respect.

The clinical opportunities offered by asylums for the teaching of a general knowledge of mental diseases are very generally made use of, but the pathological side is almost entirely neglected. The pathological laboratories in connection with asylums are numerous; some of them are admirably equipped, and conducted by men whose repute is well established in Continental and American scientific circles, even if unknown to, or ignored by, our home critics. Prophets, as usual, are not without honour away from home.

The teaching of the pathology of the brain, etc., is urgently needed, and the Medico-Psychological Association, which has been so successful in obtaining the recognition of the value of its clinical material, should now devote its energies to pressing on the universities and medical colleges the urgent necessity

for the teaching of brain pathology, by establishing lectures and demonstrations by asylum pathologists wherever this is possible.

The pathologists of our asylums would be greatly benefited and stimulated by such a connection with our teaching bodies. A lectureship in a university or medical college would be a great incentive, and would probably enable a certain proportion of them to make this work their life aim and occupation, instead of being, as it occasionally is, a stepping-stone to more lucrative positions, or, more frequently, a loss of time, so far as professional advancement is concerned, leading to the abandonment of the work by men who have obtained very valuable experience and achieved no inconsiderable success. Further, the establishment of such lectureships should form a very efficient means of enlisting the student's interest in the pathology of insanity at that stage of his career when he is inclined to emulate the enthusiasm of his teachers. This is greatly to be desired and would doubtless result in attracting a due proportion of the abler students to this special branch of medicine, and, eventually, in a great increase in the knowledge of it by the general body of the profession.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the asylum pathological laboratories, of which we are so justly proud, should no longer be allowed to "waste their fragrance" on the English medical desert, as, judging from some criticisms, they now appear to do, but should be brought into prominence and usefulness by becoming associated with our professional teaching institutions.

The need is urgent, and there should be no delay in pressing on this matter. It is to be hoped that the annual meeting will not pass by without some effort being made by the Medico-Psychological Association to assert the claims of our pathologists and pathological laboratories.

Part II.—Reviews.

Das Sexuelleben unserer Zeit [*The Sexual Life of our Time*]. By Dr. IWAN BLOCH. Berlin: Marcus, 1907. Pp. 822, 8vo. Price 12 m.

Dr. Bloch is widely known as the author of various able and learned works on various subjects in which history and medicine meet,