

Psychiatry in Russia ; from Professor Bechtereff.

Professor Bechtereff's presidential address, at the recent Congress of Russian Psychiatrists, gave an outline of the state of lunacy in Russia which is of singular interest. He estimates that there are at least 300,000 insane persons in Russia, of whom only 30,000, or 10 *per cent.*, are cared for in institutions. The 270,000 unprovided for he describes as often kept in chains under very miserable conditions.

He considers that insanity is less frequent in uncivilised Russia, by contrasting the ratio of 1 in 450 of the population with the much higher ratio in England and other civilised countries. It may be doubted whether this conclusion is justified. The mortality of the 270,000 existing under the conditions he describes would probably be at least double that of patients treated in asylums, and this extreme waste would need a larger ratio of occurring cases to maintain the smaller proportion of existing lunacy.

Professor Bechtereff advocated the establishment of colonies and of communal supervision to deal with this vast amount of untreated misery.

Part II.—Reviews and Notices.

A Text-Book of Mental Diseases. By Professor EUGENIO TANZI, of Florence. Authorised translation by Dr. FORD ROBERTSON and Dr. T. C. MACKENZIE. Illustrations. Pp. xvi + 803. Demy 8vo. London: Rebman, Ltd., 1909. Price 24s. net.

This is the third great book dealing with insanity which has lately come from Italy. It is remarkable that the most advanced ideas of psychiatry have been formulated in Italy and transmitted to us mainly by the labours of Scotsmen. We hear much of our insularity, but Professor Tanzi himself is not above reproach on the score of peninsularity. In the chapter dealing with asylums, omitting reference to voluntary patients, he finds fault with the English law, which "refuses admission to those who most require care, and provides refuges instead of hospitals." He holds that psychiatry is cultivated here as a philanthropic institution and not as a science. He finds an exception in the Scottish Asylums Laboratory, to which the translators add Claybury, Manchester and Lancaster. It is not surprising, therefore, that the index of names bears no reference to Bevan-Lewis, Clouston, Crichton-Browne, Goodall and many others whose scientific work is familiar to