

persecuted," and certain degenerates with delusions of persecution and of grandeur, especially are easily mistaken for cases of Magnan's disease; although the course of the disease in the former never presents the regularity which is insisted upon as the characteristic feature of the latter.

That there are many objectors to Magnan's views, even among his own countrymen, is well recognised; and the answers to objections, especially pages 161 to 167, show that the authors appreciate this, and we may add can be trusted to look after themselves. Only time will show whether the differentiation of chronic systematised delusional insanity from the chronic diseases which certain classifications include under the same head (paranoia, etc.) is a step in advance in our knowledge of the analysis of insane conditions; suffice for the present to say that the authors have produced a most interesting and readable manual.

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*Recherches Cliniques et Thérapeutiques sur l'Épilepsie, l'Hystérie et l'Idiotie.* Par BOURNEVILLE (Médecin de Bicêtre) avec la collaboration de MM. Mettetal, Noir (J.), Regnault, Rellay, Vaquez et Boyer (J.), Vol. xvii. Paris, 1897: aux Bureaux du *Progrès Médical*; et Félix Alcan. Pages c. and 268, with 41 figures and 9 plates. Price 7 fr.

For those interested in the manifestations in childhood of nervous and mental disease, this annual publication of Dr. Bourneville's is a mine of wealth. Apart from institutional details and statistics, it contains much valuable pathological matter, and particulars of cases and of autopsies are graphically given and copiously illustrated.

Section I. deals with the Bicêtre, and the arrangements therein made for the care and training of its idiot, imbecile, and epileptic inmates, who are divided into three distinct departments according to the degree of their infirmity. The lowest grade are subjects only for hospital care; the next undergo systematic training with a view of improving their habits; whilst the highest class, comprising healthy imbeciles, and backward, unstable, perverse, epileptic and hysterical children, are subjected to school discipline and technical instruction; of course, under medical direction. Last year there were crowded into wards planned for 400 no less than 483. The number of deaths during 1896 was 27, and

of discharges 64, while the admissions were 92. Autopsies were made in every case of death but one, and the presence of tubercle is mentioned only in five instances. At the Fondation Vallé 162 female patients were accommodated, and a new building for 100 beds has been brought into use, the architectural arrangements of which appear to be not altogether satisfactory to Dr. Bourneville.

The institution of special classes for defective children, attached to the elementary schools of Paris, is again urged; and the director of primary instruction for the Department of the Seine appears to be favourable to the project.

The clinical portion of the Report contains detailed accounts of 19 cases, including many interesting forms of brain arrest and disease, some of which are figured in full-sized plates. Considerable space is given to the thyroid treatment of myxœdematous idiocy (*sporadic cretinism*).

M. Vaquez contributes an essay on the examination of the blood of patients under this treatment; and M. Pajaud one on the examination of their urine. An increase in the proportion of red corpuscles and of hæmoglobin, with diminution of diameter of the corpuscles, is traced in two cases specially observed. The utility of thyroid treatment in cases of obesity and stunted growth is also illustrated.

With regard to the etiological influence of alcoholism upon idiocy, Dr. Bourneville gives a table showing that in 1000 cases this was a factor in no less than 620, and in 57 of these he states that conception took place as a result of intercourse during drunkenness. A curious case of juvenile alcoholism in a boy of thirteen is recorded, and reference is made to its occurrence in an infant of four!

The subject of sexual hygiene, in relation to defective children, is discussed at some length. Admitting that the evil consequences of onanism in youths and adults have, perhaps, been exaggerated, Dr. Bourneville contends that the habit in young children is most disastrous, and must be combatted by incessant supervision, suitable occupation, and attention to points as to decubitus (which must not be ventral), and suitable clothing both by day and night. Mechanical preventive appliances he distrusts, but has recourse to surgical and medical means where indicated, such as circumcision, opiate liniments to pubis perinæum and coccyx, with the administration of aphrodisiacs, such as bromide of camphor.