

*The Conversion of Asylums into Psychiatric Hospitals [De la transformation des asiles d'aliénés en hopitaux psychiatriques].* (L'Hyg. Ment., June, 1927.) Toulouse, Ed., and Dupoy, Roger.

The authors produce a powerful case for the reform of the asylum system. They point out the fact that in spite of the humanitarian efforts of the nineteenth century, the treatment of the mentally afflicted still largely consists in "shutting up." They refer to the social stigma involved in this process, and they insist that this will not be removed by the mere substitution of the term "mental hospital" for "asylum," which will still remain the "mad-house" unless a thorough reform is carried out.

They instance large groups of patients for whom confinement in a strict sense is quite unnecessary, mentioning particularly the troubles of childhood and old age, and the psycho-neuroses.

Suggestions are put forward for the reform of the system, including an extensive consultative department, and work colonies for the feeble-minded.

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*Constitutional Factors and their Value in the Diagnosis of Disorders of Behaviour [Les facteurs constitutionales leur valeur révélatrice dans l'analyse des troubles du comportement].* (L'Encéph., June, 1927.) Wertheimer, F. I.

This article deals with the correlation between mental phenomena and physical development. The author follows Kretschmer's classification, the psychic type being associated with manic-depressive conditions and the astheno-athletic with schizophrenia. The article is illustrated by a consideration of two cases.

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#### 4. Pathology.

*Spirochætosis of the Central Nervous System in General Paralysis.* (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., January, 1928.) Dieterle, R. R.

Dr. Dieterle's work is based on that of Jahnel, whose technical methods have given interest to the problems of the occurrence, distribution and localization of the *Spirochæta pallida*, within the central nervous system. Jahnel described three types of distribution the disseminated, in which the organisms lie scattered through the cortical substance in a fairly even manner; "bee-swarms," in which dense circumscribed colonies lie in the cortex; and, thirdly, a vascular distribution in which thick masses of the organisms are collected about the cortical blood-vessels. Jahnel's methods involved total-block impregnation, but the author uses a new technical modification for single sections.

Dr. Dieterle is in general agreement with Jahnel as to the three types of occurrence, and finds that "the metastasis of spirochætes undoubtedly occurs lymphogenously in a local sense, and hæmatogenously in a wider sense." "The avenue of cerebral invasion has