

*Atlas of Clinical Medicine.* By BYROM BRAMWELL, M.D.,  
F.R.C.P.Edin., F.R.S.Edin. Edinburgh: T. and A.  
Constable, University Press. 1891.

We are pleased to see the first part of this important work, and hope we may be able to congratulate both author and publishers on succeeding parts as sincerely as we can on the first issue. Myxœdema, sporadic cretinism, and Friedreich's disease (ataxy) are the subjects dealt with in the text. Three remarkably well executed coloured plates illustrate myxœdema; the first two, but in particular the first, are typical, the third is much less so, but is for that very reason the more interesting, for the clinical history, as given, can leave no doubt in the mind as to the nature of the disease. We would suggest that the œdematous sacs under the eyes are not sufficiently strongly put in; one is likely to overlook them, but perhaps our suggestion would force the artist's hand. The injection of the cheeks and nose is, as the author points out, atypical in its excessive degree. Friedreich's disease is fully illustrated, both in its pathological and clinical aspects, and by inserting the genealogical tables of some of the now classical cases, the graphic principle is still more completely carried out. The woodcuts are excellent. A valuable addition to the text, in the case of each disease described, is a section headed the clinical investigation of the disease in question. In this the chief points to which we should pay attention are accentuated. This section, both from a teaching and learning point of view, will prove of much assistance.

Mental disease is well illustrated by coloured plates, *e.g.*, melancholia, dementia, mania. Some of these plates, printed on different coloured papers, are reproductions of older plates. Of all we can speak in high praise of the artistic qualities. The work, if carried out in text and illustration as carefully as it has been begun, will prove a very valuable possession.

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*Psychologie de l'Idiot et de l'Imbécile.* Par le Dr. PAUL  
SOLLIER. Félix Alcan, Boulevard St. Germain. Paris,  
1891.

This is an ambitious and fairly successful attempt to work out the morbid psychological condition which exists in idiots and imbeciles. A short paper on the subject appeared in

1866 in Vol. XI. of the "Journal of Mental Science," but this book contains no less than 276 pages. The author is well qualified to undertake the work, as he was formerly one of Dr. Bourneville's assistants at the Bicêtre, where is a school for training idiots and imbeciles, and he is now curator of the museum at that institution. His object, he says in his preface, has not been to show the more or less frequency of some of their psychical peculiarities, but to make a study of them all.

He describes the sensations, instincts, and sentiments which are known to exist, and examines fully the amount of intelligence, will, and responsibility which idiots and imbeciles possess. He confines his research to individuals who are young in age, partly because his field of observation has been limited to these, but chiefly because the period of youth is the most interesting time in which to study the evolution of the different faculties. He mentions the various definitions which have been given by authors, and maintains that the faculty of attention serves as the best basis of classification. This opinion he defends at some length.

Intelligence, according to Ferrier, is proportionate to the development of attention and to the development of the frontal lobes, and those of us who are engaged in the education of idiots are aware that the frontal lobes are often defectively developed in those whose power of attention is very feeble. Perez has remarked that in young children, as well as in young animals, the most attentive are apparently those in whom nervous sensibility is well developed. Sensation is known to be defective in idiots, so that anatomy and physiology equally tend to show the impossibility of normal attention in these beings. To develop intelligence it is necessary to develop the senses and the muscular movements; but when the relation of the latter to one another is altered one can easily conceive the difficulty of developing the attention.

The author then refers to the three periods which Ribot distinguishes in its formation, and applies the knowledge thus gained in examining the development of this faculty in idiots and imbeciles. Attention is spontaneous or voluntary: the first is the primitive form; the second is the result of education. Imbeciles are almost as difficult to educate as idiots who are a little elevated in the intellectual scale; in the latter it is difficult to attract the attention, in the former it is impossible to maintain it.