

unable to form a clear judgment regarding his position, and so reduced in will power as to be careless of what the future holds, surely the law ought to protect him from himself and still more from those who assume heavenly gifts in return for earthly payments.

It is true that, on an important decision of the judges in a court for the consideration of Crown cases reserved, Thomas George Senior was sentenced to four months imprisonment with hard labour for the manslaughter of his child because he had not supplied it with medical aid or medicine, though aware that it would probably die. That verdict of *guilty* will do something for the protection of infant life; but there is a second childhood consequent on disease and degeneration which equally requires protection, and we trust that the law will be so amended or so interpreted as to give Peculiar People short shrift when they endanger adult human life and augment adult human suffering.

Colonial Divisions.

Letters lately received from Australia and Canada promise well for the establishment of colonial divisions of the Medico-Psychological Association. At the fourth annual conference of the medical staff of the Department of Hospitals for the Insane of Victoria, held in October last, Dr. M'Creery moved "That an intercolonial Medico-Psychological Society be formed, and that invitations be sent to all asylum staffs of the various Australasian colonies to be present next year in Melbourne, with a view to form an association which may become affiliated with the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland." This was adopted unanimously, and we trust that the scheme, now fairly floated, will be carried to a successful termination.

We also understand that the Quebec Medico-Psychological Association is about to take steps to induce all the provinces of the dominion to form a colonial branch. Dr. Chagnon has taken this matter in hand, and we have assurances from that highly esteemed veteran, Dr. Clark of Toronto, that the plan has his entire sympathy and will engage his active co-operation.

No doubt there are details of importance which will require consideration before this legitimate and desirable development of the Association is completed, but these present no real difficulty. We shall all welcome the helpful aid of hands across the sea.

Part II.—Reviews.

Organsafttherapie. Von Dr. G. BUSCHAN, in Stettin. Separatabdruck aus der *Real-Encyclopädie der gesammten Heilkunde*, &c. Dritte Auflage; Herausgeber u. Redacteur, Prof. Dr. ALBERT EULENBURG, in Berlin. (Urban u. Schwarzenberg, Wien, 1898.)

THE magical results of thyroid treatment in myxœdema form one of those demoralising discoveries which lead to the most wildly empirical experiment, not only with the original drug, but with all other substances which can by any possibility be squeezed into the same category. Of the extent to which this has been the case one gains a vivid idea when results are summarised in such a monograph as the present very interesting and fairly complete digest of the literature of the subject. Such a digest—which must represent an immense amount of labour—when prepared by a man properly qualified for the task, as in the present instance, is of great value for the sake of the genuine wheat which it contains, albeit hidden in a considerable amount of chaff.

All treatment by organic extracts traces its origin to Brown-Séquard's celebrated experiments with testicular juice, and to the theory based on them that certain organs (or, in its furthest development, that all the organs and tissues of the body) produce an "internal secretion," a substance which is essential to the well-being of the entire organism. If in its fullest form this theory has not gained acceptance, it is certainly not for want of therapeutic experiment.

Dr. Buschan divides the organs and tissues, regarded from this point of view, into three groups, viz. (1) glands having ducts, (2) ductless glands, and (3) non-glandular structures; and under these heads details the results of investigation, therapeutic or otherwise, with almost every organ of the body. To give even a brief account of all of these would be beyond the limits of the present notice, and we shall therefore confine ourselves to such as more especially concern the alienist and neurologist.

Taking first the treatment with extracts from the testicles, the author tells us that more than 1000 therapeutic experiments have been tried, and holds that, as the result of these and of other considerations,