

existed in an acute form. The passage relating to this unfortunately does not state whether the explanation given was conceived at that time, or at the later time of writing, but it has some suggestion of Samuel and Eli, whose history was well known to him. It is quite evident that the occurrence was not an accidental one, which might happen to anyone once, but habitual, and therefore demonstrative of a stage of readiness to receive insane ideas. Further, the experience was mostly, if not entirely, hallucination and not illusion. From this stage the patient advanced slowly, through unrecorded years, in the consolidation of hallucination and eventually of visual as well as auditory hallucination. The growth of each is from small beginnings, advancing in imperiousness and danger as the reasoning powers were shut off by acute disease, to again lose power as the latter receded and reason reasserted itself.

We cannot test the memory at all, though from his own account it seems to have been extraordinarily keen for incidents occurring during his most critical times, as well as for preceding and succeeding events. The affections were not ostensibly lessened, as a prodroma, for he professed warm and correct feelings towards his mother and brothers, until he fixed on them as the arbiters of his cruel fate. Then nothing could have exceeded the ferocity of his sentiments towards them. To his sisters, who did not cross his path at all, he wrote quite correctly.

A point of great importance in the whole of this case is that while it abounds with impulses and suggestions of spontaneous conduct, in each instance the patient himself gives absolutely sufficient cause for his actions, such causes being errors of mental states. To an onlooker these causes would not be apparent; nevertheless they existed in the cognition of the sufferer himself. Finally it is noteworthy that after a protracted period of the acutest mental disease, partly by his own determination to account for everything that was in him, the patient was enabled to pull himself together sufficiently to be at large, and he yet retained a very considerable amount of intellect of a high order, but marred by want of judgment. H. F. HAYES NEWINGTON.

Review of Neurology and Psychiatry. Founded by the late Dr. ALEXANDER BRUCE. Edited by A. NINIAN BRUCE, M.D., D.Sc., 1911. Edinburgh: Otto Schultze & Co.

This most useful journal is not nearly as much known among psychiatrists as it should be. It is issued every month. Each number has one or two original articles, but its great feature is the short abstracts of papers on every department of neurology that appear in Europe and America. Those abstracts relate to the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the nervous system, to clinical neurology, to psychiatry and the treatment of nervous affections. There is no journal published either here, on the continent or in America that quite fulfils the same purpose. Life being short and professional literature very long, such a summary of what is going on is what most men in our department especially need, to show them what is done elsewhere and in allied fields. No psychiatrist but should pay some attention to the general neurological

field—now so large and increasing. The abstracts are well done by the editor, the American sub-editor, Dr. Macfie Campbell, the English sub-editor, Dr. S. A. Kinnear Wilson, and a large number of young contributors to this field. The late Dr. Alexander Bruce, of Edinburgh, who founded this review purely to advance the knowledge of neurology and at great personal sacrifice to himself, was an enthusiast in the subject, an original worker who made his name well known in Europe and America, and whose premature death left a great blank in Edinburgh teaching and research. His son carries on his father's work in editing this journal admirably.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Physiological Psychology.

The Psycho-physiological Effects of Light [*Ueber die Psycho-physiologische Bedeutung der atmosphärischen Verhältnisse insbesondere des Lichts*]. (Zt. f. Psychother., Heft 4, 1911.) Gaedeken, P.

The author here further amplifies and illustrates his views as to the effects of light (the optical effects he would now include as well as the chemical effects) in causing the seasonal periodicity of various psychic phenomena. As in the previous study, the value of the investigation is increased by the accumulation of little-known data from the statistics of the smaller and more remote countries. Gaedeken also supports his views by the interesting observations of Hasselbalch and others on the exciting effects of baths of ultra-violet light on the nervous system, respiration and circulation—effects which in predisposed subjects are doubtlessly produced by very much smaller doses.

After bringing forward data concerning the periodicity of drunkenness and suicide, Gaedeken proceeds to discuss the influence of light on mortality in insanity. He regards delirium tremens as specially favourable for such investigations, and he finds that in the psychiatric department of the Copenhagen City Hospital the percentage of mortality in cases of delirium tremens is constantly higher during the months April to July. When the cases complicated with pneumonia are left out of account this periodicity is still more marked.

Gaedeken holds that the predominant influence of the chemical rays on the nervous influence is shown by the variations between the annual suicide curve in Denmark and in Norway. In Denmark, May is the driest month, in Norway, June. In Denmark, the maximum of suicide is maintained through May and June, in Norway it is only reached in June. The increased heat in June is unable in Denmark to raise the suicide-rate beyond the level attained in May, while in Norway, the greater dryness of the air in June again indicates the influence of chemical rays.

The author also deals with the seasonal periodicity of conceptions,