

Tables and plans of every kind, detailed and drawn out in that thorough and masterly way which distinguishes all French work of this description, are scattered throughout the report, and appended to it are reproductions of a series of seven photographs—two of Gartloch and five of Larbert.

One of the most interesting parts of the document, not only to the speciality, but to the general reader, and one which it would be highly instructive to give *in extenso*, but which space unfortunately forbids, is the opening chapter on English and French customs. A few extracts, however, must suffice.

“Immediately we put our foot on English soil we perceive that civilisation has taken a very different direction from ours. The Englishman is certainly a more individualist citizen than the Frenchman—at least as regards everyday life. . . . Every Englishman is of the opinion of Spencer, who wishes that the State should as little as possible suppress individual liberty. . . . The Englishman has needs of domestic luxury which we have not. We are a people of economical habits, not to say a little miserly, renouncing superfluities, and even sometimes necessities, in order to amass a small capital. The sentiment of English respectability is different from our sentiment of vanity. The English character is especially developed in the schools, which are as different from ours as their asylums are unlike those of our land. . . . All education must have the tendency to develop in the very highest degree the aptitudes which will form practical men. The school must, therefore, approach as much as possible the conditions of life. . . . In any one society everything has a connection. . . . We shall find in the law and the organisation of asylums the same spirit of independence and individualism which renders the asylum more self-governing and more differential, and the patient more free. . . . Utilitarianism seems to be in England the directing idea of public acts.”

Delirium Tremens. Par le Dr. VILLERS. (*Extrait des Bulletin de la Société de Médecine mentale de Belgique, 1898.*)

In a most interesting paper Dr. Villers reviews the recent note by M. Jacobson, of Copenhagen, on Delirium Tremens (*Allgem. Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie*, t. 54, p. 221, 1898), and contrasts his results and those of Krafft-Ebing with the facts observed in the cases at the Hospital Saint-Jean in Brussels. The contrast is most instructive, and is fairly detailed. The chief points are that the German and Danish forms of delirium tremens are more severe, more complicated, more fatal, and occur at an earlier age than in Belgium. Dr. Villers attaches great importance, in explaining these facts, to the national habits. In Belgium, it seems, gin is still the usual beverage. In Germany delirium tremens comes on probably in those who have undermined their constitutions in early life by excesses in beer, and who, on taking to spirits, become easily delirious. All cases of delirium tremens—or

nearly all—are in chronic alcoholics, and it is the alcoholism which determines the graveness of the illness, and also the frequency of pulmonary and other complications.

Jahresbericht über die Leistungen und Fortschritte auf dem Gebiete der Neurologie und Psychiatrie (Annual Report on Progress in the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry). Edited by Dr. E. FLATAU and Dr. L. JACOBSON, in Berlin; under the direction of Professor Dr. E. MENDEL, in Berlin. S. Karger in Berlin, N.W. 6.

To give a digest of the large number of books, pamphlets, and articles in the fifty periodicals which deal with the nervous system and its disorders, as well as of those in the general medical journals throughout the world, is an undertaking of unquestionable usefulness, and it has been begun in a manner commensurate to the greatness of the task. The learned editors are supported by fifty-three collaborators, comprising names already well known in German psychiatry, and others, younger men, who will most likely in the course of time also gain distinction.

Those engaged in research and in recording research have often felt the want of such a compendium, which will at once supply them with the gist of all that has been written in every tongue during the past year. The editors state that they have had some difficulty in laying their hands on foreign contributions, so that this first volume does not reach their ideal. They wish to give with compressed brevity an epitome of all that has been done in the year 1897.

To judge by the volume before us, the progress in neurology and psychiatry during that year must have been pretty considerable. The book contains 1500 pages royal octavo, and weighs about seven pounds. The editors promise a second volume for 1898 about the middle of this year. As such an undertaking must be very expensive it is to be hoped that all authors of books and papers bearing on the subjects dealt with in the Year-book will send copies to Dr. E. Mendel, c/o S. Karger, N.W. 6, Karlstrasse 15, Berlin, Prussia. Ample preparation is made to do justice to foreign literature. One learned doctor takes care of contributions in the Swedish, Danish, and Dutch languages, another in the Spanish, a third in the Italian, a fourth in Hungarian, and Dr. Flatau, one of the editors, reports on Polish and Russian literature. To give some idea of the comprehensive nature of the undertaking it may be mentioned that the volume commences with the methods of colouring preparations (Färbetechnik) of the nervous system, occupying eleven pages; then we have anatomy, macroscopic, and microscopic, then physiology of the nervous system, then pathological anatomy and pathology. The authors then go on to nervous diseases, and end with reports on asylums and reviews of books. We wish this undertaking all success, and hope that it will receive good support in Great Britain and the colonies.