

ready to modify his attitude with riper knowledge, he has now abandoned that position. During the last few years he has given special study to sexual inversion, investigating many cases, and has come to the conclusion that a very large number of such cases are congenital; he would, indeed, confine the term "homo-sexuality" to such congenital cases, and establish a separate group, under the heading of "pseudo-homo-sexuality," for acquired cases. With Magnus Hirschfeld, who undoubtedly has a wider acquaintance with sexual inversion than any other living authority, he believes there can no longer be any doubt that "homo-sexuality may be associated with complete mental and physical health." In regard to the very difficult question of the treatment of perversions, Bloch lays weight on personal influence through suggestion; actual hypnotism he is not enthusiastic about, but he considers that very much good is done to the patient even by mere intercourse with a wise physician experienced in such cases. A chapter is given to the question of sexual offences before the law, the conclusion being that these matters mainly concern medicine, and that the judge of the future in this field must be the physician. The last nine chapters are devoted to various miscellaneous subjects, the question of sexual abstinence, sexual hygiene, neo-Malthusianism, pornographic literature, etc.

The author has written a weighty, learned, comprehensive, and even brilliant treatise which cannot fail to be helpful and instructive even to those who have given most study to the subjects here discussed. Is it too much to hope that the book will some day be translated into English?

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

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*Epilepsy: A Study of the Idiopathic Disease.* By WILLIAM ALDREN TURNER, M.D.Edin. London: Macmillan, 1907. 8vo. Pp. 272.

Dr. Aldren Turner has given us a well-arranged and carefully-thought-out study of idiopathic epilepsy. He has embodied in his book the views of all the principal authorities, and has also given his own personal observations, which have been deduced from 1000 cases which were under his care at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, and also at the Colony for Epileptics, Chalfont St. Peter. The book is written from a clinical standpoint, and all the different features of the disease are well brought out and placed under definite headings in such a way as to make it an excellent book for consultation.

The first chapter is introductory, and here is discussed in general the various conditions underlying the epileptic convulsions and psychoses. In regarding epilepsy as an organic disease of the brain, he points out that he may be going further than some other observers, but he supports his view by "the unsatisfactory results of treatment in the majority of cases, the overwhelming numbers of epileptics who become victims of the confirmed disease, and the progressive character of both the paroxysmal and inter-paroxysmal symptoms." The next two chapters are devoted to etiology, which is taken up in all its aspects, and

numerous tables are supplied. As is usual, the author assigns the chief predisposing cause to hereditary influences, and he finds that 37·2 *per cent.* of his cases are due to ancestral epilepsy, the number being brought to 51 *per cent.* when other hereditary neuropathic influences are included. He thinks that this is really under the number, for when hospital and private cases are analysed separately a heredity occurs in 19 *per cent.* more cases in the latter than in the former. The determining causes, both physiological and pathological, are closely scrutinised, and he summarises his views as follows: "An endeavour has been made in the preceding pages to show that the epileptic tendency is a sign, or stigma, of a neuropathic inherited disposition, the anatomical basis of which is seen in certain well-defined structural peculiarities, both of the body and of the cerebral cortex. In those who have inherited the epilepsy tendency a convulsive habit may be established, either in the course of natural development, or as a result of certain occasional or accidental causes. Once the convulsive habit has been established there is a tendency to its perpetuation in the form of recurring epileptic seizures. Thus, infantile convulsions are frequently the starting-point of subsequent epilepsy, either as a direct sequence of the convulsions, or in later years at or about the onset of puberty." This view brings epilepsy, etiologically, very near to insanity, and shows how much they have in common.

Two chapters are given to the clinical study of epileptic fits, and in connection with these we may quote the following passage, in which the psychical factor is most properly brought into great prominence: "In the earlier days the convulsion or fit was regarded as the sole element of importance in the clinical study of epilepsy, but in more recent years the psychical factor has come to be looked upon as of almost equal importance, and both are regarded as manifestations of a predisposition associated with inheritance." We would wish to draw special attention to a series of excellently designed "day-and-night" charts for recording fits, which show at a glance the number and kind of fit for each day and night over a period of a whole year, each chart being only the size of one page. They would be of great service in asylums. In discussing remissions, he notes a point of interest, which is the occasional existence of a remission extending over the ages of puberty, and early adolescence in those who have previously suffered from fits and who have eventually become confirmed epileptics. There is a chapter on the mental states, which are well known to all alienists, and he defines as psychical equivalents "the mental phenomena of the pre- and post-convulsive states when they occur without convulsion or spasm," and he adds that he has never seen any psychical equivalent that had not its counterpart in the pre- and post-paroxysmal psychoses of epileptics.

The chapter on pathological anatomy is written by Dr. John Turner, of Essex County Asylum, and is now familiar to readers of the *Journal of Mental Science*. His opinion that the immediate cause of the fit is cortical stasis, resulting from obstruction to the blood-supply by intravascular clotting in a brain hereditarily and structurally predisposed to instability and convulsion, is distinctly novel and interesting, and, although convulsions may not arise from a local anæmia in every part of the brain, the occurrence of thrombi in vessels supplying the silent

areas may be the cause of the attacks of stupidity and confusion, or excitement, from which epileptics occasionally suffer. Dr. Aldren Turner gives a clear *resumé* of the chemical pathology, and discusses the auto-intoxication theory, which he is inclined to favour, believing that there are arguments in support of it. He does not go so far as to say that all types of epilepsy may be explained by this theory, yet, when taken in conjunction with the results of the researches of Dr. John Turner, "there would appear to be proof that some types of epileptic paroxysms may be ascribed to auto-intoxication in persons hereditarily and structurally predisposed to convulsion. These are, serial epilepsy, the status epilepticus, and fits associated with acute psychoses, as post-convulsive symptoms." With regard to recovery, his standard is nine years without a fit, and, in his experience, about 10 *per cent.* may be regarded as possible cures.

Under treatment he urges prophylaxis by care in the upbringing of a neuropathic child, that over-exertion and strain, both intellectual and physical, should be avoided, and that the peculiarities of each child should be carefully studied. He deprecates the use of bromide salts in larger doses than 60 grains in the day; if benefit does not follow, some of the various other remedies should then be tried. Treatment in an institution, although not always possible, is often the best, on account of the ease with which patients can be brought under satisfactory supervision. There is a short description of epileptic colonies in the appendix, which is of value, as these are gradually being recognised as the most convenient way of dealing with the unfortunate sufferers from epilepsy in the present state of science. A good index completes the book.

Throughout the book there is continuous evidence of clear insight, an open mind, and broad views on the part of the author, enabling him to treat his own numerous observations and his extensive knowledge of the ideas of others in a careful and judicial manner. The result has been that this volume will certainly take its place as a work of authority, and it has enhanced the reputation of the author. It is a study of epilepsy which is very satisfactory to the asylum physician, as it brings all epileptics into line with the class he sees daily, and with the psychoses generally.

C. H. G. G.

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*Lectures on Neurasthenia.* By THOMAS D. SAVILL, M.D.Lond.  
London: H. J. Glaiser, 57, Wigmore Street, W. Pp. 216.  
Price 7s. 6d.

The third edition of these Lectures deserves perusal by every student of mental diseases, for the author's special experience of the various forms of exhaustion psychoses will be a fitting complement to that of the asylum physician who has the later care of not a few of those so lucidly and instructively described by Dr. Savill. The period in the history of several cases of insanity before that of actual registration is that described by Dr. Savill in these lectures, which are concise, clearly written, and eminently practical. The whole volume reminds us of