

the social life of man, and how they act and react in human societies. The aim of the author is to convince the reader that the life of societies is not merely the sum of the activities of individuals moved by enlightened self-interest, or hedonistic ideals, but springs from common instincts and tendencies rooted in remote ancestry. The analysis of those instincts and the emotional excitement peculiar to each invites a lengthy synopsis of the argument. That is impossible here. Suffice it to say that in this analysis it is shown how few and how constant these primary concomitants are, and how masterly are the methods by which they have been distinguished.

The systematic rejection of the opinion that men always act in accordance with intellectual principles is another nail in the coffin of the utilitarian school. Mr. McDougall says: "Directly or indirectly the instincts are the prime movers of all human activity . . . All the complex intellectual apparatus of the most highly developed mind is but a means towards these ends . . . while pleasure and pain do but serve to guide them in their choice of the means." This is a hard saying for the *intellectuals*, but it might well form a text for a new study of the insane, relative to instincts and their mental developments and retrogressions.

Manual of Psychiatry. By J. ROGUES DE FURSAC, M.D., Paris, translated by A. J. ROSANOFF, M.D., New York. Second American edition from the second French edition. London: Chapman and Hall, 1908. 8vo., pp. 406. Price 10s. 6d. net.

Dr. Rosanoff intimates that this edition has been revised, and that he has added notes on psycho-therapy, after-care, Meyer's theory of dementia præcox, and lumbar puncture, notes which are all enclosed in brackets. He claims that Kraepelin's classification is more useful to those who study and treat insanity than any other, and consequently it is very generally used in America. The book begins with an account of general psychiatry—causes, symptoms, and practice—and deals with special forms of mental disorder in the latter and larger division of the volume.

Undoubtedly there is a keen and searching analysis of the symptoms of insanity, observed over a great area of experience during many years, but the underlying facts of pathology are most briefly treated. We look in vain for any notable advance on the work of Kraepelin and his school. We note in the introduction that when mental symptoms appear alone the disease is said to be *idiopathic*, and is called a *vesania*; when they are associated with alteration of the organic functions the disease is said to be *symptomatic* or *secondary*, and the time is not far off when the conception of the *vesanias* will be relegated to the past. We make bold to say that the time has already arrived for the exclusion of the word *idiopathic* from our vocabulary. If the physical conditions operating as causal factors in any case of insanity have not been recorded, the failure is usually because of their evanescence before they are subjected to skilled observation. As Dr. de Fursac clearly sees, there is a vast difference between the ankylosis of a joint and the

arthritis which produced it. From the medical point of view it is the arthritic state which is the important and elusive condition.

In seeking to define *mental alienation* and *insanity*, Dr. de Fursac suggests that the former term should be applied to all cases in which the mental disorders present an anti-social character, whereas the latter should be restricted to cases in which the mental disorder is an expression of an active pathological process. Thus an idiot or a dement is generally alienated but not insane. It is just this method of dealing with psychiatry which leaves it with a discussion of symptoms and imports into the discussion "anti-social" considerations. It is the insanity, the mental disorder, the arthritis which is our concern. The anti-social result is rather a question of medico-legal importance.

In the same way "manic-depressive insanity" is set up as a clinical entity, without the slightest recognition of English opinion, which long ago founded upon the three facts of depression, excitement and dementia constantly observed and recorded, and, similarly, "adolescent insanity" is disregarded and replaced with the brand-new "dementia præcox."

Although Chapter 8 is headed "Dementia Præcox," however, Dr. de Fursac proceeds to say that the term is not very fortunate, for *dementia* designates a general and profound intellectual enfeeblement whereas this assumed entity presents an enfeeblement which is often slight and habitually selective; and further, that the disease does not as a rule run a rapid course, nor is it exclusively a disease of early life. He holds that the specific element lies exclusively in the sum of the psychical changes, which are generally permanent, and that it is a disease of auto-intoxication, as Kraepelin has suggested, possibly a disorder of the genital organs. Dr. Rosanoff, quoting Professor Adolf Meyer, seems to deny any real pathology, and would regard any such assumption as purely gratuitous, but indicates that it is the result of vicious or abnormal mental habits. That, of course, leaves us without explanation of the inception of these habits.

We are also disappointed on reading of psycho-therapy, which Dr. Rosanoff regards as an important therapeutic measure, the only means of directly combating a false idea, a baseless fear, or a morbid tendency. After this promising introduction it follows that no full discussion of methods or technique can be given, and the reader is referred to *Dubois* for particulars.

We note *drool* as an equivalent for *dribble* on page 311, and have an impression that Thoreau so used the word. Perhaps it is more widely used in America than in this country.

On the whole, we prefer Kraepelin at first hand.

The Criminal Responsibility of Lunatics: a Study in Comparative Law.
By HEINRICH OPPENHEIMER, LL.D., M.D. London: Sweet and Maxwell, Ltd., 1909. 8vo. Pp. 275. Price 10s. 6d.

This important book has gained the approval of the University of London when submitted as a thesis for the degree of Doctor of Laws. We could wish that the author had been more of a Doctor of Medicine.