

think it would be well if sheriffs and magistrates had power to commit to these institutions for some fixed period, which should not be too short, any person who has been convicted of drunkenness or breach of the peace while drunk, say three or four times within six months. Also, if a man proves himself to be dangerous through insanity which he has brought upon himself by drinking, the lieges should have power to protect themselves. All they can do at present is to send him to an asylum; but he gets sane in a very short time; then he gets discharged, although he has not been cured of his craving for the drink that led to his insanity. Under such an Act as here contemplated, his detention would be authorised, notwithstanding his apparent recovery, in the hope of preventing a recurrence of insanity from the same cause. The repeated conviction for disorderly conduct while drunk might be held to indicate that loss of control of which I spoke. I would apply these provisions of the Act to all classes of the community, making no exception. In every pauper case the cost of maintenance should be reduced as much as possible by the work of the inmates, and with regard to them there should be compulsory work as well as compulsory detention. It is very difficult to make people work profitably, and it might be necessary sometimes to resort to profitless work. The frequency with which this would be required would depend entirely on the management of the institutions. Then it has to be borne in mind that the doing of the work would increase the chances of the patients' recovery. I do not think patients would often earn more than they cost, but where they did, I think they should get the benefit of it. Such legislation would not tend to diminish drunkenness, except in the way of making the young feel that it was a disgrace to get drunk, and that it was dangerous to be often drunk, as it might lead to confinement. In legislation of this kind we don't strike the root. We are simply proposing to mitigate the effects of a mischief we have made no effort to check, and this we do as well for our own comfort as for the good of the drunkard. The proper way of reducing drunkenness would be by giving the young a sounder education, so as to fit them to be the intelligent guardians of their own health.

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## PART II.—REVIEWS.

*Wilhelm Griesinger's Gesammelte Abhandlungen.* Two vols.  
Berlin. 1872.

We have received, through the kindness of his widow, a copy of the collected works of the late Professor Griesinger, which form two goodly volumes: the first volume being devoted to articles, addresses, and reports on matters relating to

the physiology and pathology of mind and brain, and to the treatment of the insane; the second and larger volume consisting of articles dealing with matters of general pathology, and with different diseases. For Griesinger was nowise a specialist in science or practice; the work which he has done in general medicine is not less valuable than that which he has done for psychology; and we are inclined to think that it was in great measure owing to the breadth and depth of his mental culture, to his not being merely a specialist, that he was able to do the good work which he did in psychology.

Such a collection of essays and papers as constitutes these volumes is, by the nature of the case, chiefly of historical and personal interest: of historical interest as showing what were the chief questions in each subject at the time of their publication, and what changes have taken place since; and of personal interest, as showing the relation of Griesinger to the progress of knowledge, as a pioneer and a worker. When we have entered into the promised land in matters of science, we are too apt to forget the early labours and difficulties of those who have made the way easy for us; and so it frequently comes to pass that a man whose work in life was all important, and whose reputation was great at his death, is little thought of by those who come after. Science, in its progress, devours its own children.

We will quote what the Editor, Dr. Wunderlich, says in reference to the character of Griesinger's scientific work:—

It would carry us too far to enumerate all the steps of progress connected with Griesinger's name. He certainly was the first to introduce the knowledge of recurrent fever into Germany. The diagnosis of diseases of the brain was for the first time treated methodically by him; and he first made accessible to diagnosis certain special forms of disease of the brain. Some peculiar diseases of the liver first attained a practical importance through his labours. He for the first time brought into prominent notice the importance of certain parasites in exotic forms of disease. On rheumatism, scrofula, and diabetes he has opened new views, &c. None of his works or treatises have become valueless through the lapse of time. He either places well-known matters under new points of view, or resolves much discussed questions, or discloses quite new and hitherto unknown or neglected relations.

While thus making valuable contributions to different matters of pathology, Griesinger has, from the beginning to the end of his scientific career, evinced a very strong and, as every one knows, an extraordinarily fruitful interest in mental disease. His first essay in this

direction, "On Psychological Reflex Actions," attests the depth and maturity of his views. It is wonderful that an assistant physician of 22 years of age—in a well-managed asylum, it is true—could have acquired the necessary impressions and adequate knowledge to enable him to consider on all sides this wide and difficult province, and to accomplish such original work in it.

It was not until more than twenty years had elapsed that Griesinger found an opportunity at Zurich of observing a sufficient number of the insane, and yet during that period of removal from the material of observation some exemplary productions appeared; even his work on mental diseases, which is well known and valued in all civilised countries, originated during that time. No one doubts the intensity of Griesinger's intellectual grasp; but if a proof is required, this alone will suffice.

Griesinger himself found some years later that his treatise on mental diseases did not exhaust the details of events and relations in these disorders, representing, in fact, one manner of considering the subject rather than containing a general pathology of mental disease. How much reflection he gave to the infinitely more difficult treatment of special psychopathology, and how he himself furnished the foundation stone in his later contributions and treatises, will be easily recognised from the study of the glorious products of the last years of his life.

From the collection of his works, which is not quite complete (as for various reasons certain articles had to be omitted), the reader will recognise the fecundity of thought, the logical accuracy, the acuteness of judgment, and the genial conception of this memorable man.

Several of the contributions to the first volume, which is the one specially interesting to our readers, have already appeared in this Journal, having been translated at the time of their appearance. But besides the memorable article on "Psychical Reflex Action," it contains several other important contributions to the physiology and pathology of the brain which have not been translated into English. Among these are a paper on "Rheumatic Affections of the Brain," another on "Certain Epileptoid Conditions," another on "A little known Psychopathic Condition," and others on "Hæmatoma of the Dura Mater," "Cysticerci and their Diagnosis," "Aneurism of the Basilar Artery," and the "Diagnosis of Diseases of the Brain." No one can read any of these articles without finding much matter profitable for reflection, and suggestive for future observation.

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