

recovered is frequently particularly excitable, and liable to outbursts of violence, involving a certain amount of danger, a fact that must not be concealed from those who employ him. As much liberty as possible, along with all possible guarantees, such ought to be the fundamental principle of After-Care Associations. It is suggested that a sojourn in a family of nurses familiar with the insane would constitute an intermediate stage during which convalescents who could not be placed out on leaving asylums might afford proofs of their fitness to enter into society. M. Féré holds that in cases where the insane leaving asylums recovered are placed in a convalescent home, in common with patients who have left ordinary hospitals, the arrangement is defective, and the result of a practice which gives little freedom is easy to foresee. If it should happen that a considerable number of caretakers receive, without being forewarned, ex-patients who involve them in risks, they will soon refuse without distinction all individuals who present themselves for admission after leaving a convalescent home.

Atlas of Clinical Medicine. Vol. II., Pt. 3. By BYROM BRAMWELL, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.

This part maintains the excellence of the preceding parts of this important work. It deals with exophthalmic goitre, acromegaly, general exfoliative epidemic dermatitis, and unilateral hypertrophy of the face, and thus pipes some of the lesser tunes in the grand orchestral performance of Disease. Exophthalmic goitre is carefully considered and admirably illustrated. Under the ætiology reference is made to Gautier's classification of cases into primary and secondary, or into idiopathic and symptomatic, the latter being held to result from some obvious peripheral lesion, and upon this division Bramwell comments as to the impossibility of drawing sharply such a line; he thinks, however, that a practical therapeutic value may attach to the classification. This is no doubt a just view, for the idiopathic diseases, so-called, are everywhere suffering encroachment, proximate causes revealing themselves to the careful inquirer.

In a table modified from Charcot, the symptoms, multitudinous, of Graves' disease are enumerated. They are divided into primary, or cardinal, and secondary. The primary group is increased from the usual number, three,

viz., increased frequency of the heart's action, goitre, exophthalmos, to five, by the addition of the tremor, upon which Charcot laid special stress, and "a condition of nervous irritability and instability," or "general nervousness," which Bramwell considers to be a fundamental feature of the disease. The secondary group is too numerous for separate mention. Two cases are referred to which occurred in men, and in which the diagnosis of exophthalmic goitre rested upon habitual frequency of pulse, tremor, and general nervousness, in which symptomatology, therefore, the nomenclature of the disease was not represented. The description of the tachycardia present makes prominent the value of the pulse rate for therapeutic purposes: "It is important to note that the slowing of the pulse is perhaps the most certain sign of improvement which we possess. . . . The behaviour of the pulse under treatment is the most important guide for prognosis." Palpitation is, of course, a very common complaint of these patients, but the interesting remark is here made that subjectively this symptom causes much less distress than it does in those whose circulation is habitually equable—*i.e.*, that a healthy subject becoming attacked by palpitation suffers much more discomfort than a case of Graves' disease would experience for the same degree of actual heart hurry. Custom, we know, plays as important a part in physiology as in psychology, and perhaps this instance, having reference to subjective sensation, belongs rather to the latter. Since the days of myxœdema and its treatment by thyroid injection, exophthalmic goitre has received special attention, and the part played by the thyroid has occupied an increasing area of the field of vision. It has now been definitely settled that myxœdema results from deficient action of the thyroid gland; cases of exophthalmic goitre have been known to pass into a state of myxœdema, and coincidentally the gland has been found to have undergone atrophy from interstitial hardening; an overdose of thyroid extract given in myxœdema is liable to produce a condition like that of Graves' disease, in so far, at least, as tachycardia is concerned, and the conditions myxœdema and exophthalmic goitre may in many respects be regarded as antitypes; the thyroid gland in the latter affection has, in some of the cases, presented microscopical appearances suggestive of increased activity of the gland cells. It is on reasons such as these that the view, which gains ground, is based, viz., that many of the characteristic symptoms of the disease are due

to increased or perverted secretion of the enlarged thyroid. It is necessary to make the proviso "or perverted," for it has been found that the injection of thyroid extract has not increased the symptoms of Graves' disease, at least, in some cases, nor have the symptoms of exophthalmic goitre been produced in the healthy by thyroid feeding.

Under treatment we meet with nothing specially calling for remark.

The plates which illustrate the diseases treated of in this part are very excellent, though the acromegaly is perhaps over depicted, more especially in the life-sized line drawings of hands. A charming coloured plate represents old age in all its beauty of absent teeth and deep-lined wrinkles.

"Un Fou" par Yves Guyot. Paris, 1893.

It is rarely that we have read a more detestable book than the one under review. As its title indicates, it is a description of a lunatic, but from the beginning to the end it revolts one. To begin with, the unfortunate man, named Labat, has an insane mother, whose mother also was insane. He was wealthy and of good family, and is thus able to marry a beautiful but poor girl, who has two children, both of whom die in convulsions. A most truthful but horrible description of a fit is given, exact in all its fearful details. The mother determines to have no more children by her husband, and as the latter insists upon conjugal rights, she goes to the doctor, who is readily seduced by her, and a liaison is started, which results in the birth of a fine healthy son, who bears strong indications of his paternity. The putative father is jealous, and though he takes no open steps, he evinces his disgust, and the doctor, to save himself, calls in a medical friend, who is persuaded that the accusations against his medical ally are untrue, and who treats them as delusions, and on an urgency order consigns M. Labat to a "Maison de Santé," kept by an ex-marine medical officer, whose treatment is of the most downright and brutal kind; he has a belief in subduing disease by means of douches and strict discipline, the patient passes through a period of distress, and very nearly loses his reason, and the details of the life in the asylum are revolting and disgusting in the extreme. He determines to suppress his real feelings and to acquiesce in the doctor's