

He shows that in those times also influenza was observed occasionally to affect the mind, causing depression, melancholia, and a proclivity to suicide.

In the next division of the book the author considers the influence of acute diseases—especially smallpox, typhoid and rheumatic fevers, and pneumonia—in inducing delirium and subsequent mental derangement. The relative frequency of insanity attributed to influenza is really small. Fehr finds typhoid assigned as the cause of insanity in 1·18 in the thousand cases of this fever; influenza in but 0·52 in the thousand. Dr. Fehr describes the great pandemic of 1889 and 1890. He illustrates the different ways in which influenza has been found to affect the minds of patients by brief descriptions of 355 cases, partly observed by himself and partly collected from a wide survey of European and American medical literature. He treats of the microbes which are supposed to be the cause of influenza; the most likely of these claimants seems to be the bacillus described by Pfeiffer. Dr. Fehr thinks that the toxin of influenza induces insanity by attacking the weak parts of the organism, thus falling back upon predisposition, to which writers upon lunacy attribute so much, and for which they can give so little explanation. He finds by statistical inquiries that the prevalence of influenza is accompanied by an increase in the number of suicides. Wildermuth, in his work upon *Sonderkrankenanstalten*, also observes that the great epidemic of 1889—90 was followed by a long-continued state of nervous depression in many persons in Germany. In treating patients affected with this form of insanity he found that hypnotics did more harm than good, and preferred to calm excitement by warm baths and the wet pack. He tries to support the system by frequent meals. Where food is persistently refused he thinks it more prudent not to delay resorting to forcible feeding rather than to wait for the effects of hunger. Where collapse occurs he has some faith in injections of solutions of common salt. For prognosis he observes that out of 52 cases observed by himself there were 26 recovered, 17 remained insane, and 9 died. Dr. Fehr finishes with a list of works upon influenza, of which, as far as the mental disturbances go, his book may be considered as a thorough-going summary.

Methods of Staining the Nervous System. By Dr. B. POLLACK. Translated from the 2nd German edition by W. R. JACK, M.D., B.Sc. Whittaker and Co., Paternoster Square, 1899. 4s.

The second edition of Pollack's practical work, which appeared in the original German within a year of the date of issue of the first, presents several additions. It has the advantage, for readers in this country, of appearing also in an English translation. For the benefit of those unacquainted with the work we may state its principal contents as follows:—(1) methods of section of the brain; (2) hardening fluids for the central nervous system, with general remarks on hardening and staining; (3) examination of fresh unstained specimens;

(4) methods of embedding, with information upon microtomes; (5) method of preparing serial sections; (6) methods of staining the nerve-cells, the medullated sheaths, the axis-cylinders, the neuroglia, and the peripheral nervous system; (7) hints on photography (of specimens), and on drawing apparatus; (8) general practical remarks; (9) bibliography. It is curious that no reference is made to the fresh method of Bevan Lewis, which foreign writers appear studiously to ignore. The method is worthy of attention even on the part of those who are wedded to prolonged and elaborate methods of preparation, and to the use of cumbrous and expensive microtomes. Whilst all the methods of preparation referred to—and they are numerous—are clearly described, the chief ones, such as Golgi's, Nissl's, Weigert's (medullated sheath and neuroglia), and Ehrlich's methylene blue, are especially thoroughly gone into, and their most serviceable modifications are duly noted. The student is not left bewildered by an endless and indiscriminate description of methods, but will find, especially in the general practical remarks, suggestions for his guidance, based upon the author's experience, gathered under the tuition of distinguished workers. The book may be thoroughly recommended as a valuable, almost necessary work of reference for the asylum pathological laboratory.

On the Study of the Hand for Indications of Local and General Disease.
By EDWARD BLAKE, M.D. Published by Glaisner, London,
1899, 2nd edit., large 8vo, pp. 131, with 38 illustrations.

This monograph is of interest to physicians of any and every speciality, containing a large amount of careful observation and much valuable speculation and suggestiveness. The illustrations alone are a very valuable collection of instruction—very admirably produced, and the facts relating to the various conditions described manifest a wide extent of medical research and erudition. The brochure is indeed a mine of interesting information on the subject.

The addition to the work of a chapter on the dynamics of respiration, with paragraphs on lung development and a dilated heart condition, can scarcely be considered apropos to the subject, however ingeniously the author may connect them.

The book is admirably printed, and both in matter and form is worthy a place on every physician's book-shelf.