

Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Par M. A. MOTET, 1881.

M. Motet, having visited Broadmoor with much interest during the Congress, has written a short but excellent account of it, in order that it may contribute to the solution of the problem which has for some time occupied the French—the best mode of providing for their criminal lunatics. To the English reader also it cannot fail to be interesting to know the impression produced upon a stranger by a visit to our State criminal asylum. That impression was favourable, and he bears willing testimony to the efficient manner in which the asylum is superintended by Dr. Orange. The article by Dr. Nicolson, on the “History of Criminal Lunacy in England,” which appeared in this Journal, is largely used by the author. The officers of the institution cannot but be gratified by the kind and generous terms in which our respected *confrère* and foreign associate speaks in conclusion:—

Nous sommes revenu de Broadmoor, satisfait d’avoir trouvé la réalisation d’une idée que nous étaiť apparué juste. Mais un sentiment plus profond et plus vif encore nous prenait tout entier. Nous aviońs vu cette population que les autres asiles rejettent avec raison loin d’eux, recueillie, abritée, contenue dans set établissement d’un caractère tout spécial ; et nous aviońs rencontré là des hommes qué vivent au milieu d’elle, portant vaillamment l’énorme responsabilité qui pèse sur eux, acceptant avec un dévouement modeste leur rude labeur. Si les sympathies souvent affirmées devant nous de leurs collègues nationaux sont d’un haut prix pour eux, qu’ils nous permettent de leur dire que les nôtres leur sont aussi sincèrement acquises, et qu’ils trouvent à la fin de ces pages, où j’ai cherché à traduire fidèlement leur pensée, l’hommage de notre profonde estime.

On our part, the visit to Broadmoor on the 9th of August, 1881, in company with MM. Motet, Ball, Foville, Professor Hitchcock, Dr. Whitmer, Dr. Müller and others, will be always remembered as a red-letter day.

L’Alimentation. Par Dr. JULES MOREL.

This is a reprint from the “Bulletin de la Société de Médecine Mentale de Belgique,” and is an *exposé* of the principles which ought to guide the directors of public institutions in the hygienic and economic choice of nourishment. It contains also remarks on the alimentation of the insane. There is a large amount of useful information in this pamphlet, as

those who have read M. Morel's numerous valuable contributions to medicine and the materia medica would expect to find. There are few more laborious workers than M. Morel. We think, with him, that peptones might be given with advantage to some patients; the practical remarks on this subject by the writer, and Sanders, of Amsterdam, will be found useful.

The Responsibility of the Insane in Asylums. By J. DRAPER, M.D., Superintendent of the Vermont Asylum.

This is an excellent practical pamphlet, and should be read in connection with Dr. Campbell's paper on "Complaints by Insane Patients." We regret that lack of space prevents our extracting some of Dr. Draper's remarks.

PART III.—PSYCHOLOGICAL RETROSPECT.

1. *French Retrospect.*

By T. W. McDOWALL, M.D.

Annales Médico-Psychologiques, Nov., 1879—July, 1880.

Report on the Psychological Section of the Medical Congress at Amsterdam, September, 1879. By Dr. BILLOD.

In connection with the presidential address, Dr. Billod discussed the everlasting question of non-restraint, but without altering appreciably its position. He considers that French and English asylum physicians agree in theory, and differ in practice only in the extent to which they can do without restraint. Whilst acknowledging the organisation of English to be different from that of French asylums, he does not admit that it is better; they are only different. He comes very near the truth when he says—"Non-restraint consists much less in the abolition of means of restraint than in an asylum organisation which renders their employment unnecessary."

Dr. Billod visited five Dutch asylums without finding any patient restrained. How is this? He gives the following reasons:—

1. The patients being fed five times a day, are in a state of constant digestion—a condition tending to repose.
2. The excessive use of tobacco.
3. The character of the Dutch people. In England we are supposed to be able to do without strait-waistcoats, because—1. Of the large number of single rooms. 2. The superior character of our