

of cases there are no naked-eye changes at all, while in those which do exhibit them the changes are not uniform. The commonest diseased process was softening. It was further observed that it was only in those cases which had exhibited impairment of intelligence that some gross lesion was found. There is no record of any systematic microscopic examination of the cortex, which, of course, is a fatal omission. The book closes with a very extensive and apparently complete bibliography, which includes 724 separate references.

JAMES MIDDLEMASS.

(¹) *Journal of Mental Science*, Oct., 1900.

Traité de Thérapeutique des Maladies mentales et nerveuses. Paul Garnier et Paul Cololian, 1901.

The purpose of this treatise is to place treatment in the foreground without abandoning the clinical aspects of disease. Accordingly, the salient features of the several nervous affections are set forth, along with the special modes of treatment adapted to each case. The method is an excellent one, but we think that it might with advantage have been elaborated still more on the therapeutic side.

An historical chapter develops in outline the march of the therapeutics of mental affections from prehistoric times down to our own days. Needless to say this outline is very sketchy, and we miss some important figures. Thus, whilst Pinel deservedly takes a foremost position, we find no mention of the foundation of the York Retreat in 1792 by William Tuke on principles similar to those which guided the great alienist, yet independently of him. This criticism is not to detract from the glory of Pinel, to whom we owe so much, including even, according to our authors, the nasal feeding of the insane (see p. 24).

General therapeutics occupy a separate section, and deal with the management of the insane and with such questions as isolation, non-restraint, the open doors, confinement to bed, etc.; also with the treatment of the insane in colonies, as at Gheel, Lierneux, and Dun-sur-Auron, and the treatment in special asylums of the criminal lunatic, the epileptic, the idiot, the hysteric, and the alcoholic. Under the heading "Société de Patronage pour les Aliénés guéris" we find another omission, viz., no mention of the After-care Society, which has existed in England since 1879. France, of course, led the way by many years in this noble work, but when we are told that Germany, Belgium and Italy possess analogous institutions, we might expect to find mention of our own society.

The chapter on alimentation is very slight; upon it follows treatment by drugs.

Under bromides we should have expected some mention of the more recent attempts to convey bromine in organic combination with albumen or peptone (bromo-eigon), with oil (bromipin), with some of the fatty acid series (bromalin). Chloralamide we find described as an indifferent hypnotic, and as *dangerous*. Paraldehyde is stated to be but little prescribed nowadays, and a drug of small value. These dicta will scarcely represent prevailing opinion here. Under the classification "tonics" we find arsenic; with this arrangement we need not quarrel, for every

one has his own definition of *tonic*, but we learn with some surprise that Fowler's solution is "a bad preparation of arsenic."

Physical agencies include hydrotherapy and electric treatment. The former makes only a passing reference to the prolonged use of baths. Hypnotism finds its place under "les agents psychiques;" the authors confine its use to the hysterical condition; they warn us that it is by no means a treatment without danger, and they insist that it must be used only when other means have failed, and when the consequences liable to be evoked by the method are of less importance than the hysterical troubles under consideration.

We are surprised to find no reference to the treatment of the dipsomaniac by suggestion, or of the morphinist by the same means. True, the confirmed alcoholic or morphinist is a very hopeless case, but this applies to nearly every form of treatment, and is no reason for excluding hypnotic suggestion as one means of attacking the disease.

The concluding and longest section of the treatise deals with the various mental and nervous affections *seriatim*, the special treatment belonging to each following the description of the disease. Troubles not usually regarded as belonging to the alienist are here considered, *e. g.*, Graves' disease, the various forms of chorea, paralysis agitans, certain toxic affections, also alcoholism and morphinism. The last named is dealt with at some length, and Levinstein's method of cure by *sudden* suppression is given the preference, except where the morphia doses have reached a very high figure and the condition of the patient is greatly reduced; in such cases the *rapid* suppression advocated by Erlenmeyer is advised.

Certain important symptoms which may attend this or that affection quite independently of its nature receive special consideration in separate chapters, *e. g.*, the refusal of food, the suicidal tendency, insomnia. The plan and method of the book is excellent, but one could wish for a fuller treatment here and there, and this might be attained without a considerable increase in the size of the volume if care were taken to condense as much as possible. Moreover it would be feasible, without sacrificing anything of the plan of the treatise, to forego the historical chapter.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

Report of Drs. Mott and Durham on Colitis or Asylum Dysentery.

Presented May, 1900; ordered to be printed by the Asylums Committee, November 13th, 1900.

We have been favoured with a copy of this Report, and we experience some difficulty in deciding which is the best way of dealing with it. It is impossible, in the short space of a review or digest, to give a synopsis of any value, the information already being considerably condensed. On the other hand, any comprehensive criticism we are reluctant to undertake. In the first place, we cannot altogether see what induced the Asylums Committee to order its publication. Not that we desire in the least to belittle its importance, but much of it, we should think, is of purely local interest. Up to now the medical press appear to have strangely misunderstood Dr. Mott and his colleague, and have omitted to make