

between the sensory end and the motor end there are a variety of processes with which the psychiatrist has to deal, and for these we must have expressions, which may be called metaphysical.

While he is a little confident on the affirmative side, Kronthal is dogmatic on the negative. He denies free will, reasoning after the manner of Buckle, who argues that men's actions are proved by statistics to depend upon circumstances beyond their control—*e. g.*, the number of marriages in England is always low when bread is dear. But it may be replied that men desire to be married under certain conditions. No sane man will take a wife if he knows he cannot buy for her enough of bread to eat. The dearness of food does not take away the will to marry, but the opportunity for doing so.

As conclusions, Dr. Kronthal presents us with his views upon these grave questions which lie near or beyond the bounds of our knowledge, and which have been debated for thousands of years. In the universe he sees an everlasting energy. [Is energy not a metaphysical expression?] Pantheism (*Allbeseeltheit*) is, he tells us, adopted by the best thinkers, not only amongst those eminent in the study of natural phenomena, but by those who are styled philosophers. Spinoza, Leibnitz, Lotze, Wundt, v. Nägeli, Zollner, to name a few of them, hold that nature is besouled in all her parts, not this or that body. The survival of the soul after death he considers to be an illusion, for which he offers an explanation on his last page. We cannot, in a limited review, discuss the weighty subjects for which Kronthal's own pages give insufficient room. He has applied his mind closely to the question which he treats, and his pamphlet deserves the attention of psychologists.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

---

*La Démence.* By Dr. A. MARIE. Paris: Octave Doin, 1906. Pp. 492, 8vo.

The present work forms one of the *Bibliothèque Internationale de Psychologie Expérimentale*, a series of fifty volumes, written by various authors, under the general editorship of Dr. Toulouse, of Villejuif, the whole being intended to show the stage at which the various divisions and applications of experimental psychology stand at the present day. "Experimental psychology" is apparently understood in its widest sense, and implies the scientific as opposed to the metaphysical method, rather than the strictly quantitative procedures with which the phrase is associated in this country.

Dr. Marie sounds the keynote of the whole book in his statement that "psychological states are to be regarded as a function of the brain." This irreproachable postulate, however, leads him, in many places, to adopt theories which, founded on the slenderest hypothesis, must be regarded as unproven and unfruitful. As an example may be cited the oft-repeated application of the theory of nerve-cell amoeboidism to the explanation of psychical states. The text often tends to give one the impression that the theory is a matter of established fact, rather than a centre of heated controversy.

Dementia is defined as "a weakening or total loss of the intellectual faculties, without possibility of return," and the first part of the book is devoted to a consideration of its general characters, both pathological and psychological. The pathological section is mainly founded on the work of Klippel. The psychology of dementia is fully treated, and this chapter contains a large amount of interesting matter. The scheme of questions in use at Villejuif is explained, together with the results of various quantitative experiments. Among the facts thus established may be noted the early loss of calculating power in general paralysis, compared with its relative persistence in vesanic dementias and in dementia præcox. The modern doctrine of psychological disaggregation is applied to the various affections of the personality—the loss of the sentiment of reality, ideas of negation, doubling of the personality, and the frequent delusional interpretations of the altered cœnæsthetic sensations. The emotions are somewhat perfunctorily treated, but considerable space is given to the phenomena of amnesia. In this section Ribot is largely followed, and some interesting deductions, both theoretical and practical, are made from his "law of regression."

A chapter is devoted to the historical development of the subject, commencing with Pinel, and Esquirol-Bayle's differentiation of general paralysis is described, and the numerous modern attempts to separate other varieties from the group of the dementias. The diverging paths of the French and German schools, the development of the concept of degeneration by Morel, Magnan, and their followers, and the gradual evolution of dementia præcox by the Heidelberg school, are lucidly traced out. The author concludes the chapter by adopting Dupré's view that every age has its dementia, and, in the present state of knowledge, thinks it better to group his material under the headings—(1) the dementia of early life (*démence précoce*); (2) the dementia of adult life (general paralysis); (3) senile dementias. The vesanic dementias form a link between (1) and (2), the organic a link between (2) and (3). A pathological basis for this classification is found in Klippel's distinction between neuro-epithelial and vasculo-conjunctive dementias. In the former only the nerve-cells and neuroglia are affected, in the latter the lesions extend to the vessels and meninges. The neuro-epithelial group includes dementia præcox and the vesanic dementias, while general paralysis, organic, and senile dementia are vasculo-conjunctive in type.

The second part of the book deals with the various dementias in detail. The chapter on "Démences Précoces" includes, not only dementia præcox in its limited sense, but also the vesanic dementias. The author makes no attempt to subdivide this group on Kraepelin's lines—in fact, the references to the latter are scanty in the extreme. He erects, however, into a separate entity a primary dementia connected with puberty, which corresponds, apparently, to the dementia simplex usually described as a variety of hebephrenia.

The chapter on "General Paralysis" is of great interest. The author inclines to Klippel's view that general paralysis is not a morbid entity, but "a clinical syndrome common to various toxic processes, with lesions, may be inflammatory, may be generative, but always characterised by their diffusion and by their progressive tendency." He thinks that

the influence of alcohol and syphilis in the etiology is at least over-rated, and ascribes the principal *rôle* to hereditary factors. Alcoholism is to be regarded either as an effect of the general paralysis or as a concomitant effect of hereditary causes. Similarly, syphilis is often the result of venereal excess in the early stage of euphoria, a contention supported by the fact that it is comparatively rarely met with in the antecedents of depressive general paralysis. It may be remarked that the author's statistics on this question do not appear to take into account the interval elapsing between the syphilitic infection and the incidence of paralytic symptoms, though it should be mentioned that, in his opinion, the prodromal period of general paralysis is of far longer duration than is generally supposed.

Considerable space is devoted to the psychical symptomatology of general paralysis, regarded mainly from the point of view of psychological disaggregation, with frequent references to a hypothetical anatomical basis. Some interesting cases of double personality are described, and the author thinks that this phenomenon occurs in an imperfect form with comparative frequency.

The chapter on "Senile Dementia" is noteworthy for a most excellent and complete description of the macroscopic and microscopic changes in all parts of the body, which accompany normal senility. Senile dementia is regarded as an exaggeration of the final term of normal senility. The author considers the main etiological factor to be a primary cell-alteration and a failure of nutrition.

The concluding portion of the book deals with various medico-legal and administrative details. Many of the defects in French asylum organisation here pointed out exist equally in our own country—for example, the increasing number of senile demented and other chronic cases, which act as a stumbling-block to the effective treatment of acute mental disease. As a remedy the author proposes the establishment of chronic asylums, in addition to an extension of the family-care principle. By such means, he thinks, asylums will merit less the reproach that they are institutions where one finds "administration, culture, even general medicine, but very little mental therapeutics."

Dr. Marie's work is a veritable mine of information, and its value as a work of reference is considerably enhanced by a compendious bibliographical index, which, by the way, is to be a feature of all the volumes of this series. The views of many members of the French school are exhaustively set forth, but the space and consideration devoted to German writers is certainly inadequate. The repeated attempts to translate psychological problems into anatomical terms, which Kraepelin has stigmatised as "a crude and unfruitful schematisation of clinical experience," have already been noted. Finally, from the psychological point of view, one would have liked to see a wider application to dementia and its problems, of the methods and theories of Pierre Janet.

BERNARD HART.

---