

tions. Out of 90 children taken at random in the wards, reputed free from conjunctivitis, he found that in no less than 50 there was evidence of the existence of the diplobacillus of Morax in the conjunctival membrane. This form of contagious eye trouble often escapes the notice of attendants and nurses, whereas the acute form of conjunctivitis (with the "Weeks" bacillus) is more obvious and more easily dealt with.

The clinical and pathological portion of the volume is replete with interesting observations both of symptoms seen during life and of *post-mortem* appearances. A case of Mongolian idiocy, in which the cause of death was tubercular disease, is described at length. The autopsy showed a brain with few secondary convolutions and a fair-sized thyroid. Full-page illustrations of this brain are given in the valuable collection of plates which close the volume. Several histories of "myxœdematous imbeciles" (sporadic cretins) subjected to thyroid medication are minutely recorded; and in one fatal case a most complete autopsy was effected including the examination of the skeleton, which is well shown in two illustrations. Two brothers who suffered during life from spastic infantile diplegia and idiocy (*affection familiale* as Bourneville designates it) were both found after death to present symptoms of cerebellar atrophy with degeneration of the pyramidal fibres.

As usual, this year-book is a veritable mine of neuro-pathology, and will repay careful perusal. G. E. S.

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*Recherches Cliniques et Thérapeutiques sur l'Épilepsie, l'Hystérie, et l'Idiotie, etc.*, 1903. Vol. xxiv. Par BOURNEVILLE, etc. Paris: Aux Bureaux au Progrès Médical, 14, Rue des Carmes, and Felix Alcan. clxxiv + 346 pages, 72 figures, and 17 plates. Price 7 francs.

This volume keeps up the reputation of its predecessors as a serviceable compendium, not merely of the history for the year 1903 of the Children's Department at the Bicêtre, but of various pathological investigations undertaken by the staff. Commencing with a chapter devoted to methods of training, in which some ingenious devices for teaching children to walk are pictured and physical exercises are described, we learn that Dr. Bourneville has made extensive trials of thyroid medication in cases of sporadic cretinism, mongolism, dwarfism, and obesity. For epilepsy he has tried injections of bromo-hydrate of hyoscine and treatment by cerebrine and calcium chloride (injections of which have proved useful, though inert when given by the mouth). A shapely, strong garment for destructive patients is illustrated. In the section devoted to technical instruction we are told that 159 workers at various handicrafts have produced work valued at 30,000 francs, half of which, Dr. Bourneville urges, should be devoted to improvements in the methods and material used in industrial training.

A weekly consultation is held by Dr. Bourneville at the Bicêtre available for advice on the placing out of backward and epileptic children, and also as to the medico-pedagogic treatment of nervous and backward children at their own homes. No less than 711 persons

availed themselves of these consultations during 1903. Interesting information is given by Dr. Poulard on ophthalmic troubles prevalent amongst the children, which he divides into (1) chronic conjunctivitis (with diplo-bacillus); (2) acute contagious conjunctivitis (with Weeks' bacillus); (3) granular conjunctivitis. The first form is common, though apt to be overlooked; the second was diagnosed in 83 cases; whilst 3 only of the third form were brought under medical notice. Vigilance on the part of the nurse, with observance of minute precautionary measures, was found here, as elsewhere, the only means of staying this very troublesome affection.

It would seem that 428 cases were under care and treatment at the Bicêtre at the end of 1903, of whom 63 are described as "pathological liars," and no less than 177 as onanists; 24 patients died during the year, and 93 were discharged from the "section"; 9 deaths were attributed to tubercle, mostly pulmonary, besides 7 who had other pulmonary diseases. We see no mention of open-air treatment having been tried in any of the tuberculous cases.

At the Fondation Vallée there were resident at the end of 1903, 236 girls, classified as epileptics, hysterics, and idiots or imbeciles; 6 deaths occurred and 20 were discharged. It would seem that tuberculous disease was almost twice as common among the girls as among the boys.

A valuable chapter is devoted to the teaching of speech to idiots and backward children, the exercises being described in full.

In the pathological portion we find the various forms of dwarfism discussed, and good results of thyroid medication are recorded in several cases, which are described in minute detail. An interesting account of the histological condition of the brain, etc., of a Mongolian imbecile is contributed by Dr. Oberthur, and the brain is pictured, showing very coarse and simple convolutions. Other chapters contain notes on autopsies in cases of infantile hemiplegia, of hydrocephalus with pseudo-porencephaly, and of epilepsy. There are numerous illustrations, including seventeen large-sized plates of abnormal brains.

G. E. S.

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*The Life of Sir Henry Vane, the Younger.* By WILLIAM W. IRELAND.  
London: Eveleigh Nash, 1905. 8vo., 513 pp.

Biography should theoretically be the particular domain of the psychologist. In practice this is rarely the case, and a work, therefore, by such a well-known psychologist as Dr. Ireland is of especial interest.

The life of Sir Henry Vane has the double interest of being associated with the foundation of the American Republic and of having been connected with the English Commonwealth period from beginning to end.

Dr. Ireland has well brought out the important part played in those historic events by Sir Henry Vane, and has given forcible character sketches not only of his protégé, but also of many of the leading actors, of this historic period.

Sir Henry Vane, *pace* Dr. Ireland, played very much more important