

*The Principles of the Treatment of Epilepsy.* By Dr. ALBRECHT ERLÉNMEYER.

The principles consist in a careful investigation of each epileptic case and treatment, not general, but individual. Dr. Erlenmeyer makes the complaint, probably with justice, that cases of epilepsy are far too frequently treated in a rule-of-thumb manner, and scarcely at all investigated. He then proceeds to describe how a case should be examined (the details are somewhat alarming, it must be confessed), and subsequently describes the many varieties of epilepsy, including Jacksonian. On p. 13 we find one cause given which sounds theoretical, "commotio cerebri." In the investigation of causes he insists that the history should be most carefully taken; and under the head of injury should include even a simple box on the ear! We would suggest that so careful a history will scarcely ever fail to discover some cause, right or wrong. A case of epilepsy cured by trepanning, which operation was done at the author's insistence, is included in the text of some remarks at the end of the brochure.

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*On Jacksonian Epilepsy.* By Dr. E. ROLLAUD, Médecin des Asiles "John Bost." De Laforce (Dordogne). 1888.

This, a small volume of nearly two hundred pages, is one of the publications of the Progrès Médical. It is a fairly complete monograph on Jacksonian epilepsy. A preliminary chapter is devoted to the anatomy and physiology of the subject, Dr. Ferrier's experiments finding special mention. The definition, history, and symptomatology are treated of in successive chapters, the last being introduced by a fully-reported case of Dr. Jackson's. The interesting post-epileptoid phenomena sometimes observed, *e.g.*, aphasia (chiefly in cases of right-sided convulsive attacks), hemianopsia, hallucinatory disturbances of sight and hearing, are carefully recorded. A very valuable table of 109 cases derived from all sources is an important feature of the book. This is supplemented by a chart, which shows most beautifully the motor zone as the part almost solely affected by the lesions in the 109 cases. The pathology of the disease is next considered. The diagnosis between this and true epilepsy and hysteria—the latter sometimes simulating the disease almost

exactly—occupies a concluding chapter. In the chapter on treatment, Horsley's valuable work on brain surgery is not forgotten, a *résumé* of his cases being appended. In conclusion, one must not omit to add that Dr. Rollaud records himself a number of cases which have come under his observation. The fruits of John Bost's work have still to be gathered in. We can certainly recommend the work.

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*Nosographie des Chorées.* Par le Dr. MAURICE LANNOIS. Paris. Baillière et Fils, 1886.

In an interesting, though short, introductory chapter the author points out that the original signification of the word chorea (dance), more especially in connection with the so-called chorea Sancti Viti, St. Vitus' dance, had reference to an eccentric, frenzied dance epidemic in the Middle Ages. It therefore had no connection with the affection to which Sydenham applied the name St. Vitus' dance, which same is the familiar chorea of the present day. The confusion which resulted from this and from subsequent departures in the nomenclature is dwelt upon, and finally the author, following Trousseau, adopts the term chorea as a generic term. From the group thus included he eliminates all forms of genuine trembling (*e.g.*, alcoholic, mercurial, paralysis agitans, general paralysis)—all true ataxic movements—all forms of cramp (*e.g.*, writers' cramp).

On p. 8 we find the list of choreas; it is subdivided into three principal classes:—

1. The rhythmic choreas—the epidemic forms including the original St. Vitus' dance. This group is essentially emotional in its character, and the hysterical forms belong here.

2. The pseudo-choreas, including the electric choreas, the convulsive ties, &c.

3. Choreas, *par excellence*; also some other forms—the limp chorea of Ch. West and Gowers, the chorea of pregnancy, &c. Hemi-chorea and hemiathetosis are also placed in this group.

It is not possible for us to take up in detail these several forms. The book is rather clinical than pathological in its intention; still, pathology is not wholly ignored, more especially in regard to the last group. The negative nature of our knowledge on this subject is pointed out, there being