

certainly place the medical staff of the asylum at a disadvantage with other asylums in Ireland and other countries, in which more frequent opportunities are afforded for verifying their opinions and for investigating the forms of disease. It must tend to weaken or hinder the development of that keenness of interest and accuracy of knowledge of disease on the part of the medical officers which is so important in the successful treatment of their patients.

Such a retrograde restriction on the progress of medical knowledge would assuredly affect the reputation of the asylum adopting it.

The committee of management no doubt arrived at their decision on grounds that appeared cogent, but it is hoped that on a reconsideration of the subject they will appreciate the overwhelming importance of this aspect of the case, and save their institution from the stigma which so easily attaches in the present day to anything approaching a relapse into mediæval inappreciation of scientific knowledge.

Part II.—Reviews and Notices.

An Introduction to Social Psychology. By WILLIAM McDOUGALL, M.B.Cantab. London: Methuen & Co., 1908. 8vo., pp. 355. Price 5s. net.

We regard this original and readable book as an important contribution towards a clearer understanding of psychology. It is direct in style, devoid of technicalities, and should be studied by all who desire to have a reasonable knowledge of mind. The author fearlessly embarks on a new venture, reconsiders the problems which lie in the very beginnings of mental manifestations and continue urgent in the latest phases of mental development. We are too apt to lose sight of fundamentals in studying psychological manifestations, to begin with complex and sophisticated materials. Here is a thinker who leads us back to instinct and the instinctive process, who elaborates the principle that all emotion is the affective aspect of instinctive process, who analyses complex emotions by the comparative method, not by unaided introspection, and who in the end presents a noteworthy theory of volition.

The reduction of all motives to the search for pleasure and the avoidance of pain is actively combated, and the vague faculty of conscience fares no better. Darwin indicated how this positive science must proceed upon the comparative and natural history method, and this work deals with mental characters which are of prime importance for

the social life of man, and how they act and react in human societies. The aim of the author is to convince the reader that the life of societies is not merely the sum of the activities of individuals moved by enlightened self-interest, or hedonistic ideals, but springs from common instincts and tendencies rooted in remote ancestry. The analysis of those instincts and the emotional excitement peculiar to each invites a lengthy synopsis of the argument. That is impossible here. Suffice it to say that in this analysis it is shown how few and how constant these primary concomitants are, and how masterly are the methods by which they have been distinguished.

The systematic rejection of the opinion that men always act in accordance with intellectual principles is another nail in the coffin of the utilitarian school. Mr. McDougall says: "Directly or indirectly the instincts are the prime movers of all human activity . . . All the complex intellectual apparatus of the most highly developed mind is but a means towards these ends . . . while pleasure and pain do but serve to guide them in their choice of the means." This is a hard saying for the *intellectuals*, but it might well form a text for a new study of the insane, relative to instincts and their mental developments and retrogressions.

Manual of Psychiatry. By J. ROGUES DE FURSAC, M.D., Paris, translated by A. J. ROSANOFF, M.D., New York. Second American edition from the second French edition. London: Chapman and Hall, 1908. 8vo., pp. 406. Price 10s. 6d. net.

Dr. Rosanoff intimates that this edition has been revised, and that he has added notes on psycho-therapy, after-care, Meyer's theory of dementia præcox, and lumbar puncture, notes which are all enclosed in brackets. He claims that Kraepelin's classification is more useful to those who study and treat insanity than any other, and consequently it is very generally used in America. The book begins with an account of general psychiatry—causes, symptoms, and practice—and deals with special forms of mental disorder in the latter and larger division of the volume.

Undoubtedly there is a keen and searching analysis of the symptoms of insanity, observed over a great area of experience during many years, but the underlying facts of pathology are most briefly treated. We look in vain for any notable advance on the work of Kraepelin and his school. We note in the introduction that when mental symptoms appear alone the disease is said to be *idiopathic*, and is called a *vesania*; when they are associated with alteration of the organic functions the disease is said to be *symptomatic* or *secondary*, and the time is not far off when the conception of the *vesanias* will be relegated to the past. We make bold to say that the time has already arrived for the exclusion of the word *idiopathic* from our vocabulary. If the physical conditions operating as causal factors in any case of insanity have not been recorded, the failure is usually because of their evanescence before they are subjected to skilled observation. As Dr. de Fursac clearly sees, there is a vast difference between the ankylosis of a joint and the