

7. Mental Hygiene.

The Progression of Psychiatric Therapy towards Treatment without Certification [L'Evolution de l'assistance psychiatrique les Services ouverts Sans Interrement.] (L'Hygiène Mentale, June, 1925.) Raviart and Vulliers.

Discussing one direction in which the voluntary system may be said to have failed, namely, in avoiding the stigma which is attached to certification, the authors point out that for the general public the mentally ill remain "madmen," whether one treats them in psychiatric hospitals, in clinics, on a voluntary or a certified basis. The aim of psychiatry should be to educate the public rather than to enter upon a fruitless attempt to deceive it by calling old things by new names.

They advocate the establishment of psychiatric hospitals, where those who after a preliminary period of observation and examination seem likely to show an early improvement may be treated, the more chronic cases being relegated to the asylums.

In the description of these hospitals one notes the importance laid upon baths for the more excited patients, and for those who are confused or agitated a special variety of covered bed, in which the patients, while they have a certain degree of freedom of movement, are prevented from doing themselves any serious injury.

D. EWAN CAMERON.

Where and How one ought to Treat Psychopaths [Ou et comment l'on doit Traiter et assister les psychopaths]. (L'Hygiène Mentale, June, 1925.) Reyneau.

The author in his article proves himself a strong advocate of the newer conception of psychiatric treatment. His aim is to treat the mentally ill as one would the bodily ill. Admission to hospital should, if possible, be voluntary. The patients' relatives should be encouraged to visit him and as much liberty afforded him as possible. Work in which the object in view is the patient's benefit and not the production of an article of commercial value is advocated.

In order to avoid the stigma of insanity, the name of "psychiatric hospital" should be employed rather than "asylum." The author makes a strong plea for the treatment of the poor on the same lines.

D. EWAN CAMERON.

8. Mental Hospital Reports, etc.

ENGLAND.

Kent County Mental Hospitals.—(1) Barming Heath: The total number of admissions for the year 1925 was 314 (males 109, females 205), the number of male admissions being the lowest recorded for