

sections is so marked that they might have been the work of different authors.

There is a good index. The engravings are clearly reproduced, and the letterpress is excellent; but the weight of the volume is excessive.

KEITH CAMPBELL.

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*Trattato di Psichiatria [Text-book of Psychiatry]*. Del Prof. BIANCHI LEONARDO. Napoli: 1901. *Puntata I.* Octavo, pp. 170. Price l. 4.

This is the first instalment of a text-book of psychiatry that is being written by Prof. Bianchi, of Naples. It consists of an introduction and the first two chapters, which contain an anatomical sketch of the cerebral mantle and subcortical white substance, and an account of the physiology of the cerebral cortex. The second part, which is intended to form an introduction to the clinical study of insanity, is to deal with the investigation of the elementary symptoms of mental disorder and their significance. The third part, which will be the longest, is to contain an account of the individual forms of mental disease. The whole work is expected to constitute a volume of about 600 pages. It is being illustrated by numerous figures intercalated in the text. The fifty-four of these contained in this first part are excellently clear, of practical utility, and in most instances original.

In the Introduction, which extends to twenty-two pages, the author chiefly expounds his views upon the subject of the parallel phylogenetic increase of the nervous organs and psychical processes. In his account of the structure of the cortex and cerebral functions he differs in several particulars from the orthodox teaching, on the ground of personal observations. Thus he denies that the anterior part of the frontal lobe, the anterior associative zone of Flechsig, gives rise to fibres of projection, maintaining that it is connected by long association fibres with all the other parts of the cortex, and that it is the organ of the physiological fusion of all the sensory and motor products elaborated in the other cortical provinces. He subjects the views of Flechsig to much adverse criticism, and contends that the "associative centres," with the exception of those of the frontal lobes, are merely evolutional zones, each of which belongs to the perceptive field of one of the special senses.

There can be little doubt that this first instalment of Prof. Bianchi's book amply fulfils the expectations that have been formed regarding it in view of the valuable nature of the contributions already made to neurological science by the author, and the high position he occupies among Continental alienists. The work bids fair to be one of very considerable importance in psychiatric literature. It follows no conventional lines, but, throughout this first part at least, is stamped by originality and even boldness of conception. It is exactly the kind of work which, even though many of the opinions expressed in it will certainly not find immediate acceptance with the majority of readers, serves to place familiar problems in a new and suggestive light, and so tends strongly to stimulate progress in the department of practical science with which it deals. A perusal of this first instalment leaves

the conviction that it is eminently desirable that the contents of Prof. Bianchi's book should, as speedily as possible, be made available to every British alienist by means of a careful translation.

W. FORD ROBERTSON.

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*Einführung in die Psychiatrische Klinik* [*Introduction to Clinical Psychiatry*]. VON EMIL KRAEPELIN. Leipzig: Barth, 1901. Pp. 328, 8vo.

Prof. Kraepelin has the rare distinction of possessing equal eminence in the scientific investigation of morbid psychology and in the study of its practical and clinical aspects; he is known for his persistent attempts to introduce greater clearness and precision in nomenclature and classification, as in the extension he gives to the conception of "dementia præcox" and katatonia, to "paranoid" states and maniacal depressive conditions; he is, moreover, the author of a text-book of psychiatry, now in its sixth edition, which in Germany is regarded as a kind of classic.

The present volume is not an attempt to boil down the larger work, nor is it in any sense a text-book. It is strictly a series of demonstrations of clinical cases set forth in the form of thirty lectures, each devoted to some particular form of disease—epileptic insanity, katatonic stupor, puerperal insanity, mixed maniacal depressive conditions, katatonic excitement, alcoholic mental disturbances, chronic alcoholism, morphinism and cocainism, senile dementia, etc. The lectures are very clearly and simply written, so easily and fluently that a careless reader might possibly suppose them to be casual and hasty productions. Yet they withstand the most careful critical examination. It is, indeed, only after careful reading that it is possible to realise how much unobtrusive literary art, as well as wide knowledge and sound judgment, has gone to the composition of these clear and simple lectures. Usually the lecture begins with a brief but vivid and precise description of the case which is supposed to be before us; then follows the history; and then the considerations suggested by the case, without any direct reference to the opinions of other authorities. Usually one or two other cases are then brought before the reader in the same way, to illustrate further aspects or later stages of the same disorder. A foot-note states the final issue and present state of the case, and these notes show that the cases are selected over a period of ten years.

A brief introduction is furnished to the lectures, as well as a conclusion. The former is noteworthy as containing the author's expression of belief that there is a real increase of insanity among the population in Germany, and not a mere absolute increase; in the latter he suggests that as our knowledge of the causation and mechanism of insanity increases one may possibly find that various forms are to be explained, in the same way as cretinism is to be explained, by the formation of a poison in the organism; such a poison, it is suggested, may be the link between syphilis and general paralysis, the direct action of syphilis not being sufficient to account for the facts, since general paralysis is not amenable to antisyphilitic treatment. He