

(supplementing Dr. Bucknill's work), could not fail to be of use. Probably no one could deal with the task so well as one whose practice and study had been concerned with mental pathology. If such a writer wished to do a real service to science and literature alike, he could not do better than imitate the diligence with which Dr. Despigne has collated every scene and line in which the characters and idiosyncracies of the leading actors are brought out. The labour will not be wasted, for it is the secret of a world-writer that it may be said of him, as Dr. Despigne says of Molière, that "since he depicts the passions general to humanity, his writings will be for all time."

Handbuch der Gerichtlichen Medicin, &c. Von DR. HERMANN KORNFELD. Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke. 1884.

This book unfortunately does not adapt itself for review in a journal of psychology; with the best intentions it is not possible to find material for criticism. It is the usual handbook of forensic medicine, in which the several modes of death and their respective signs find consideration. Pregnancy and its allied subjects receive their due, and in a short chapter the subject of life-assurance is dealt with. In the hope that something available might be forthcoming, we turned to the chapter on simulated diseases, but in a page or a page and a half epilepsy, catalepsy, somnambulism, and contractures are despatched. Again, in the chapter on toxicology, which is a long one, we had hoped to find the nervous symptoms which attend the administration of certain drugs somewhat more fully considered. Of course these are matters of great interest to the psychologist, but they are not dwelt upon sufficiently to admit of separate consideration here. The chapter on unsoundness of mind extends over only forty pages, whilst the book records its six hundredth page. It will be seen from this that Dr. Kornfeld has by no means developed this section specially. This chapter is very largely made up of legal considerations, which are simply recorded as matters of fact, not being discussed in their bearings or fundamental principles. This, no doubt, will serve the purpose of the student who is asked for a fact and not for a reason, and it must not be supposed that we are finding fault with the book for not discussing these problems; we are but explaining our inability to criticize. The

book would seem to be well adapted to meet the requirements of the student; it is illustrated by some fifty wood cuts, which for the most part appear well executed. We must, however, make an exception in respect of the cut representing the teeth of inherited syphilis as described by Mr. Hutchinson. In conclusion, we must express our regret that the nature of the subject-matter has precluded more detailed examination of a work written by a Corresponding Member of our Association, sent to us for review.

H. S.

PART III.—PSYCHOLOGICAL RETROSPECT.

1. *English Retrospect.*

Asylum Reports.

(Continued from p. 129.)

Ipswich.—Out of 67 admissions, no fewer than four were found by Dr. Chevallier to be not insane. One of these was a re-admission, and was discharged the next day; but in the others their condition “was such as to justify the belief, on the part of those instrumental in depriving them of their liberty, that they were of unsound mind.”

When the Commissioners paid their official visit there were 118 males and 152 females resident; 98 of the former and 100 of the latter were confined to the airing-courts. Only 52 men go weekly beyond the grounds, and 35 women take exercise in them. The Commissioners appear to be justified in considering this amount of exercise, especially for the women, quite inadequate.

Kent, Barming Heath.—It is very creditable to the management that in every case of death an examination of the body was made. How Dr. Davies succeeds so well must be a mystery to many asylum-superintendents, who, charm they never so wisely, receive the necessary permission in from 50 to 75 per cent. of the deaths only.

The admissions were very numerous, and included many incurable cases from workhouses. In connection with this subject, Dr. Davies says:—“I am convinced that, apart from overcrowding, these patients exercise an injurious influence upon those whose disorders are of an acute and consequently more curable nature. I think, therefore, that, in the long run, it would be cheaper for the Guardians to provide suitable accommodation for them in the workhouses, and forego the present advantage of the grant in aid, when in an asylum. It is, however, almost impossible to get this view adopted in the right quarters, so that the only hope left is that the Government will, at no distant date, reconsider this grant, and dispose of it in a less objectionable