

possesses an open mind, he is not too suggestible as to the German label. It may be that we need in America first the kind of connective which Dr. Stoddart has furnished. Anyhow, he has written a good book.

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FRANCE.

By Dr. RENÉ SEMELAIGNE.

ACCORDING to an old saying a medicament must only be used whilst it possesses a curative power. Likewise, medical terms should only be employed when they seem to define a pathological state. Some years ago, degeneration and chronic delirium were all the fashion; now dementia præcox and manic-depressive insanity are, without any hesitation, the most frequently diagnosed. Indeed, it is an easy matter to declare that a patient is a degenerate or a case of dementia præcox, though such terms are not sufficiently precise, and might be applied to various forms of insanity. The idea of manic-depressive insanity is not a new one, and originated, not only previous to Kraepelin, but even to Falret and Baillarger. Scipion Pinel, a son of the illustrious alienist, had noticed that insanity, which he called *cerebric*, very often exhibited successive appearances of mania and melancholia, also intervals of apparent lucidity, which might allow of the patients temporarily resuming their habitual duties. In the *Physiologie de l'Homme Aliéné*, published in 1833, the same author proclaims that it is no longer correct to consider mania, melancholia and dementia as three different diseases, but that they are only different phases of the same disease, sometimes of very long duration.

Another saying asserts that plenty of good things cannot be hurtful to anyone. If such a saying is true mental science has been greatly favoured in France during the past year. Two new societies have been established for the unique and laudable purpose of assisting their ancient sister, the *Société Médico-Psychologique*, aged fifty-seven years. But why two societies, seeing that they have the same purpose? Some evil-minded people would, perhaps, pretend that it is merely a personal question, and that two societies mean two councils and a double number of officers; but everybody, of a truth, knows that ambitious delirium does not exist amongst the followers of mental science, and that though the old Latin saying, *invidia medicorum pessima*, was perhaps true of some centuries ago, it is now quite inapplicable. Notwithstanding that, two societies have been founded almost at the same time. Scientific discussions in the *Société Médico-Psychologique* are more generally theoretical; but at the meetings of the new societies members must present patients, and the cases are immediately discussed. For such purposes the meetings take place in the *Asile St. Anne*. But though the scientific purpose is quite the same, the constitution of the societies is entirely different. The *Société de Psychiatrie*, which is slightly the older, includes only thirty-five titular members, besides which there are honorary, national corresponding, foreign corresponding, and *associé libre* members. No one can be elected as titular, national corres-

ponding, or *associé libre* member if he does not obtain at least three quarters of the votes of the titular members present at the meeting; but half is sufficient for the foreigners. If five votes are antagonistic, the election is negative. On the contrary, in the *Société Clinique de Médecine Mentale*, the number of titular, corresponding and foreign associated members is unlimited, and any member of the *Société Médico-Psychologique* is received without election. Both societies have very interesting meetings. The official journal of the first society is the *Encéphale*, the second publishes its proceedings.

The Annual Congress of French Alienists took place last August in Dijon; Dr. Cullerre, superintendent of the asylum of La Roche-sur-Yon, occupied the chair. The presidential address was dedicated to a study of the courtiers of the time of Louis XIV from a medical point of view. Dr. Cullerre successively examined genuine psychoses, neuropathies, impulsions, mysticism, eccentricities and moral deprivation. The mental pathology of that period is especially characterised by a constitutional want of equilibrium of the nervous system, hereditary insanity, and mental degeneration with its multiple aspects, and, as occurs in every period, such manifestations take from their environment some peculiarities and aspects more or less original. The distinctive features seem to have been the unexpected extravagance, marked eccentricity, cynicism, and violence. All the instances quoted in this interesting study have been collected from memorials of the time, and prove amongst such people the nearly exclusive prevalence of the psychical and nervous manifestation of hereditary defect.

Dr. Laignel-Lavastine, of Paris, presented a report on psychical troubles arising from disorders of the glands with internal secretions. His study is divided into two parts. In the first, he attempts to trace the cerebral trouble to the glandular disorder; in the second part, he has in view the contrary, and, instead of seeking the psychical trouble arising from glandular syndromes, he studies glandular troubles in mental diseases. He submitted for the discussion of the Congress the following conclusion: (1) There is an ætiological relationship between the disorders of the glands with internal secretions, such as the thyroid, parathyroid, hypophysis, supra-renal, ovary, testicle, and the corresponding syndromes, as myxœdema, exophthalmic goitre, *tétanie*, eclampsia, *gigantisme*, acromegaly, and syndromes of Addison, of ovarian or *diastématique* insufficiency. (2) Does an ætiological relationship exist between the same disorders and some concomitant psychical troubles of their respective syndromes? (3) If such relationship exists, which are the psychical symptoms and the criteria enabling us to diagnose a glandular origin? Is it permissible to recognise a glandular origin to the psychical troubles, even when the respective glandular syndromes cannot easily be estimated, as occurs with many lunatics? (4) Even in the case of a cerebral predisposition, is it possible to admit a glandular origin in some cases of mental weakness, dementia præcox, partial delirium, and such functional disorders as hysteria, neurasthenia, psychasthenia? Dr. Regis, of Bordeaux, thinks that there is an ætiological relationship between the disorders of the glands with internal secretions and some concomitant troubles of their respective syndromes; the best proof of such relationship is the clinical aspect of those

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psychical troubles, which seem to arise from an intoxication. According to Dr. Claude, of Paris, there is more generally a modification of all the organs, and it is impossible to assert that the cause of the troubles is a glandular change. Pathological facts are complex. It is very difficult to demonstrate clearly from a histological point of view the glandular changes which affect organs with most delicate structure. Therapeutic methods might provide valuable information, but cannot afford a strict and scientific proof of the glandular origin of the psychoses. Dr. Grasset, of Montpellier, observed that one who studies psychical troubles in glandular diseases must, as Dr. Laignesl-Lavastine did, equally study glandular troubles in psychical diseases. Dr. Leri, of Paris, made a histological examination of the thyroid in six patients, of the supra-renal in thirteen, of the hypophysis in thirteen. The result was trifling concerning thyroid and hypophysis. The thirteen supra-renal cases comprised eight general paralytics, three anxious melancholiacs, one mental confusion with excitement, and one case of alcoholism with mental confusion and agitation. In seven cases the suprarenals were very seriously diseased, two had moderate changes, and four were nearly normal. According to Dr. Picqué, of Paris, psychical troubles consecutive to ovarian castration might be classified amongst the post-operative psychoses, and their origin has to be searched in a prior mental state of hereditary predisposition. Dr. Dide, of Auxerre, thinks that the influence of the glands with internal secretions on psychical functions might be sought by surgical operations which constitute real physiological experiments, and by a study of the disorders presented by such glands amongst lunatics. Drs. Sollier and Chartier, of Paris, have presented the results of the treatment by ovarian or pituitary extract of nine patients who were offering different mental states (obsessions, hypochondria, melancholia, hysteria, mental confusion, dementia præcox) associated with general phenomena which might be ascribed to functional troubles of the glands with internal secretions. In eight cases they obtained good results. Drs. Claude and Schmiergeld, of Paris, have studied seventeen cases of epilepsy from the standpoint of the state of glands with an internal secretion. Disorders of the different glands were constant, but variable as to intensity and localisation.

Dr. Joffroy, professor of psychiatry in the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, died recently; his last contribution to the *Encephale* relates to the mental disorders associated with electricity. He reports the case of a young artisan who was employed in an electrical manufactory. On December 22nd, 1900, this man received a violent electric shock; he lost consciousness for about one minute, and suffered giddiness and confusion for two minutes more, but on the following day he was able to work again. After about three weeks, he began to complain of a persistent headache, painful sensations in the ears, dizziness, etc. Some time during the following February he suddenly fell down and lost consciousness for about ten minutes. Sight and hearing progressively decayed, and in January, 1902, the patient was nearly deaf and blind. In January, 1907, *i.e.*, six years after the accident, he suffered more losses of consciousness, and in the month of May showed verbal and unilateral auditory hallucinations. Soon afterwards, he was admitted to the asylum

suffering from general paralysis. Dr. Joffroy considered this case, which had a morbid heredity (father died in an asylum, nervous mother), to be one of post-traumatic general paralysis.

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GERMANY.

By Dr. BRESLER.

AN excellent example of the spread of psychiatric ideas and methods is to be found in the lectures held on the suggestion of Professor Sommer at the Psychiatric Clinic in Giessen on August 3rd to 6th, 1908, on family histories and heredity. The lectures were attended by fifty-seven people, which included twenty-one physicians, twelve teachers, seven jurists, seven parsons, four philologists, and others, coming from places as far apart as Switzerland, Holland, Russia and North America. Professor Kekulé von Stradonitz lectured upon the elements of genealogy, on descent, pedigree, and the so-called loss of ancestry (by marriages between relations). Dr. Strahl, professor of anatomy, spoke of the structure and qualities of the germinal elements, the process of fecundation and evolution, with demonstrations on anatomical preparations. Dr. Hansen, professor of botany, took the same lines as regards plant life, also illustrating his discourses by preparations and drawings. Dr. Sommer demonstrated the psycho-physic reactions and the psychic dispositions of individuals. In members of the same family similar specific reactions are observed which are characteristic. He showed original tabulated statements of reaction-times after simple acoustic and optical stimulation on their grouping in differently disposed individuals, and pointed out that by such simple comparative investigations the different expressions of the psycho-physic constitution and psychic dispositions can be established (by length of reaction time, maximum frequency and maximum dispersion of the reactions). He discussed the methods of education, the possibilities of correction by punishment, the question of natural nobility, of the selection of the fittest upon which rests the progress of culture. The professor of psychiatry, Dr. Dannemann, demonstrated by tables of heredity from the insane at the clinic, the facts of heredity and the dispositions in the insane and criminal classes, and discussed the prophylaxis of psychoses and neuroses and the treatment of psychopathically disposed individuals. It was resolved to found an association for the genealogical and physical investigation of families, especially as regards the phenomena of heredity, degeneration, and regeneration, and a committee was formed for this purpose. A detailed report of these lectures will appear in the *Clinic for Psychic and Nervous Diseases*, edited by Professor Sommer, Giessen.

At the general meeting of the German Association of Psychiatry, held on April 24th and 25th, 1908, at Berlin, the question of the terminal stages of dementia præcox was thoroughly debated. The reports of Professor Bleuler (Zurich) and Dr. Jahrmarker (Marburg) agreed, and formed a series of theses, the more important points of which