

ticularly on initial cost per head of buildings and land, cost of maintenance, average number of escapes, occurrence of suicides or accidents, and supervision of epileptics at night. Of the German asylums visited six are arranged on the segregated or Villa-Colony plan, while all the French asylums were of the pavilion type. At Gheel, as is well known, there is a central establishment for sixty-five patients of the most acute class, while the other cases are boarded in ordinary houses in the village or district. The asylum at Alt-Scherbitz, as being the best known of the institutions built on the Villa-Colony system, receives detailed description; and Herzberge, the newest but one of the Berlin asylums, is also very fully described. The latter consists of an asylum proper or main portion, made up of detached pavilions, and of a Villa-Colony. A number of illustrations are included in the report, and give views of the general arrangement of the buildings in the different asylums, and plans of some of the villas and other details. The book thus contains much information of great interest and value to those concerned in asylum construction. In the closing chapter the members of the deputation give their general conclusions and recommendations. They propose that a new (sixth) asylum should be provided for Lancashire, that it should be entirely for epileptics and imbeciles, and that it should consist of villa buildings, containing each not more than fifty patients, and preferably only from twenty-five to forty patients. They are strongly in favour of the segregated system of construction. The main arguments they advance for that view may be stated as being (1) more home-like arrangement; (2) more individualised care of the patients; (3) no greater liability to accidents; (4) no increase in expense; (5) greater convenience in erection of the buildings and in making additions to them; and (6) more easy and efficient sanitation. This is not the place for entering on an examination of these arguments, or of the considerations which might be advanced in support of the opposite view. It appears, however, from the statistics of admissions and discharges, and from other points mentioned in the report, that in some respects the circumstances in the German asylums vary considerably from those of asylums in this country, and it will therefore become of great importance to ascertain if the test of actual experience of the segregated system of asylum construction and administration which will soon be available in Scotland, and probably also in Lancashire, bears out the favourable anticipations of its supporters.

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*Diseases of the Thyroid Gland, Part I. Myxœdema and Cretinism.* By  
GEORGE R. MURRAY, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. London: H. K.  
Lewis, 1900. Royal 8vo, pp. 108. Price 7s. 6d.

In this very readable volume on myxœdema and cretinism Dr. Murray has incorporated portions of his Goulstonian Lectures of 1899, on the "Pathology of the Thyroid Gland," and part of his article on the "Diseases of the Thyroid Gland," in vol. iv of the *Twentieth Century Practice of Medicine*. The second volume is to deal with goitre and other thyroidal diseases.

In the first chapter the author gives a description of the anatomy and physiology of the gland and of the effects of thyroidectomy. The account of the chemistry of the thyroid might, with advantage, have been more complete in a work of this kind. The author, however, gives a most interesting account of his own experiments on thyroidectomy in monkeys and in rabbits, and of the after-treatment of the former with thyroid extract. Dr. Murray agrees with the French and Italian observers who attribute the acute nervous symptoms which sometimes follow thyroidectomy to the simultaneous removal of the parathyroids, one of his reasons being that administration of thyroid extract does not relieve or prevent these acute symptoms, whereas it will prevent or cure any myxoedemic symptoms which may arise. However, that parathyroidectomy is the sole explanation of the neurotic symptoms may be doubted, for certain German observers assert that the parathyroids may be removed without ill effects; and again, Welsh, in this country, was unable to relieve the symptoms in cats by administration of parathyroid tissue.

The second chapter is devoted to myxoedema, and is an admirable description of the disease. Dr. Murray nearly always speaks of the disease as consisting of a fibrosis of the thyroid gland with atrophy of its epithelium, but as he is unable to tell whether the fibrosis or the atrophy is the primary process, and as he inclines to the view that "the atrophy of the glandular tissue takes place primarily," and that "the fibrosis is only a replacement fibrosis" (p. 58), it would seem more correct to speak of the disease as consisting in a thyroidal atrophy with fibrosis rather than as a thyroidal fibrosis with atrophy, and this would more effectually accentuate *the* fact of myxoedema which, of course, Dr. Murray duly emphasises, namely, that its immediate and essential cause is deficiency of thyroid secretion.

The third chapter deals with cretinism, which the author denotes as "myxoedema arising in infancy or childhood before the age of fifteen."

The volume is illustrated with numerous photographs, contains full directions for the thyroid treatment of myxoedema and cretinism, and altogether forms a valuable memoir of the most marvellous discovery in recent medicine, and one in which the author has taken so worthy a place.

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*Diagnostic et traitement des maladies nerveuses.* Par JOANNY ROUX.  
Paris: Librairie J. B. Baillièrè et Fils. 1901. Pp. 553.  
Pr. 7f. 50.

Within the compass of a small volume Dr. J. Roux has succeeded in presenting a clear and succinct account of our knowledge of nervous diseases, and classifying the signs and symptoms upon which we base our diagnosis of these affections. The results of recent researches on combined scleroses, on the peripheral distribution of spinal roots, on spinal metamers, etc., have been included, so that the work is up to date. To the student, the general practitioner, and even to the specialist it should prove useful and often invaluable in obscure cases. A number of diagrams serve to elucidate such complicated questions