

their working, while unavoidable expenses and inconveniences consequent upon the conveyance and return of patients from remote localities, perhaps from 100 to 120 miles distant, must constitute very serious objections. It appears to us more feasible that lunatic districts should have each its own receptacle for chronic cases.

The Central Criminal or Dunderum Asylum is reported to progress in the same satisfactory manner hitherto noticed, but additional provision against growing pressure may soon be urgently needed, for which two alternatives are given, either to discharge the old, decrepid, harmless, and inoffensive—Government paying for their maintenance elsewhere—or to allocate a portion of a prison to convicts who become, or pretend to be insane while under confinement.

On turning to the tables, we cannot but reiterate our feelings of extreme disappointment at finding that no attempt whatever has been made to assimilate the statistics on the subject of insanity in the three divisions of the United Kingdom. It must be evident that nothing would add more to the usefulness of these Reports, compiled with so much care, than to have the corresponding information of the causes, the results of treatment, the increase or decrease of insanity in the three divisions of the United Kingdom uniformly arranged. Nor can it be said that to present the information given in these tables, in the same form, would add to the labour of compiling them. No difficulty could be experienced in giving a comprehensive view of the statistics of insanity for the past ten or twenty years in the Irish, as in the Scotch or English Reports, showing the distribution, the ratio of persons of unsound mind to the general population, the percentage of pauper lunatics to paupers, the number of recoveries, discharges, and deaths amongst the insane, or in assimilating many of the other tables by giving the returns for the number admitted, and not for the total under treatment. On the other hand, we would recommend some of the tables comparing the dietary and expenditure in Irish District Asylums to the consideration of the English Commissioners.

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*Handbuch der Physiologie. (Encyclopædia of Physiology.)*  
Edited by Prof. L. HERMANN. 1879.

We wish chiefly to call the attention of the readers of this Journal to the appearance of the second volume—the Physiology of the Nervous System. Since the appearance of Wag-

ner's Encyclopædia, 30 years ago, there has been no similar venture till the present. Probably encouraged by the success of Ziemssen's sixteen volumes, the publishers have undertaken the publication of an exhaustive treatise on Physiology in six volumes, to be finished in 1880. The writers are over twenty in number, and all eminent teachers, and the whole is edited by Hermann. The names of Hoppe-Seyler, Pflüger, du Bois-Raymond and Ludwig do not, for obvious reasons, appear amongst the contributors. The first part of the second volume contains Hermann's "General," and Prof. Sigmund Mayer's "Special Nervous Physiology." Both articles (300 pages together), are well worthy of their authors. The second part includes the spinal cord and brain (exclusive of cortex), by Prof. Eckhard, and the cortex cerebri, by Prof. Exner. Vol. 2 and part of Vol. 1 only are published. Each volume can be had separately.

E. G. GEOGHEGAN.

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*Topische Diagnostik der Gehirnkrankheiten, Eine Klinische Studie. (Topical Diagnosis of Cerebral Diseases, a Clinical Study).* By HERMANN NOTHNAGEL. Berlin, 1879.

This clinical study of 600 pages supplies a much felt want. Professor Nothnagel has published several hundred cases, many of them his own, bearing on the localization of brain disease. They are arranged according to the parts of the brain affected. Thus, he commences with the cerebellum, and brings forward a number of cases which he classifies under the heads of recent hæmorrhage and embolus, stationary hæmorrhagic centres, etc. Then follows an analysis of these cases. The other parts of the brain are successively treated in the same manner. Any reference to physiological experiment is studiously avoided, and in the introduction we are half promised the physiological part as Vol. 2. The whole introduction on the subject of what cases can be utilized for localization should be read by anybody who wishes to turn his cases to advantage.

As a fair criticism would occupy too much space, we refrain altogether, merely advising everybody who takes an interest in the subject to read the book. It certainly deserves to be translated, and a good translation ought to repay the publisher.

E. G. G.