

hostelries for the incurable in mind. Dr. Berkley records in the *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital* for July, 1897, the results of the administration of thyroid extract in cases that "had either passed, or were about to pass, the limit of time in which recovery could be confidently expected." We need not here describe Dr. Berkley's work, of which our readers can judge in the original. We content ourselves with the observation that it is the record of the trial of a medicinal agent, carried out scientifically, and for the benefit of the patient. To Mr. Berdoe, however, it appears that Dr. Berkley's work was "a study of poisoning, as a poison might be tested on an animal." Viewing the matter in this lurid light, Mr. Berdoe felt forcibly that the interests of the public were in jeopardy, and, thus agitated in mind, was constrained to seek out a sympathetic confidant, whom he found in the *Daily Chronicle*. The "up-to-date" and democratic organ upon which Mr. Berdoe's choice fell was far too astute to miss the opportunity of heading a letter "Experiments on Lunatics;" and consequently we find his feelings concentrated under that harrowing title in an issue of the above newspaper. Those members of the profession who may have seen his letter, though it may be denied them to gauge the intensity of Mr. Berdoe's feelings, will not fail correctly to estimate his action in this matter. They cannot but regret that he should have condescended, not merely to have addressed his strictures upon a medical colleague to a lay organ, but further—to quote from our medical contemporary above-mentioned—to have made statements which "are not accurate," and to have given "a very unfair version of the facts."

The Evil of Unrestricted Zeal.

But, while we condemn libel on a professional brother, while we protest, alike in the interests of humanity and of our profession, against any stupid effort to excite prejudice against the proper use of new methods, we would denounce any real "experiment" upon lunatics unhesitatingly. It is not too much to say that such a procedure would be cowardly, immoral and infamous. On similar grounds we are inclined to condemn the practice of pressing into the service of science criminals under sentence of death. This has, however, been occasionally carried out. Thus Küchenmeister

gave twenty *cysticerci cellulosa*, on two occasions, to a criminal; and it is recorded that "afterwards" nineteen tapeworms were found in his intestines; and thus the converse of feeding pigs with the proglottides of the *tænia* was experimentally manifest. It appears to have been reserved for a Viennese specialist to make what is probably the first experiment upon an insane person, and we record the fact with regret and reprobation. Those members of the Association who attended the Moscow Congress, and who heard the discourse of Krafft-Ebing on general paralysis, may be already aware of the circumstances; for we gather from an account of the proceedings of the Congress (as they related to Psychiatry) which appears in our French contemporary, *Annales Médico-Psychologiques* (Nov.-Dec., 1897), that this address made mention of the experiment alluded to. The announcement, it is stated, caused considerable surprise and emotion, as we can readily believe. It would appear that a certain specialist in Vienna, whose name is not disclosed, being desirous of throwing light upon the question of the relationship between syphilis and general paralysis, conceived the idea of inoculating with the former disease nine general paralytics taken at random from his clinique. Of these six remained free from syphilis, but three contracted it, the conclusion being that syphilis was not the cause of the general paralysis in these latter cases. The moral laxity which permitted this shameful indulgence of scientific curiosity was justly censured by the public Press. The *Deutsches Volksblatt* of August last has an article upon the subject entitled "Human beings in place of rabbits for experimental purposes." The enemy have indeed had occasion to blaspheme.

PART II.—REVIEWS.

*The Fifty-first Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy,
England, July 5th, 1897.*

Notwithstanding their special supplement issued earlier in the year, dealing with the alleged increase of insanity, the Commissioners in Lunacy most unwisely open their Annual Report to the Lord Chancellor for 1896 with an expression of "regret" at the very large increase in the number of lunatics in England and Wales on January 1st, 1897. This indiscre-