

way in which this section is treated; the revision has extended to this chapter, and has been, on the whole, judiciously executed.

We were not aware, however, that in the early stage of general paralysis there is a difference of 7° Fahr. between the morning and evening temperature. (Vol. ii., p. 350).

In so large a work mistakes in the spelling of proper names are almost inevitable. Dr. Aitken is, however, rather hard on Dr. Burq, for he is not considered to have suffered sufficiently in having been quietly locked up in a seclusion room for many years, but when allowed to come out, his name is uniformly changed into Burg. We must hope that M. Burq is not like Goëthe, who was very sensitive on this point, and said that when people took liberties with one's name, it was as bad as taking liberties with oneself. On metalloscopy itself, Dr. Aitken, either speaking himself or quoting Dr. Carpenter (it is impossible to tell which), makes a somewhat sweeping charge against Charcot, when he says, "This potent source of error (effect of attention on bodily organs) has been quite ignored in the clinical experiments and observations of Professor Charcot and others in the effects of magnetics, bobbins, buttons, mustard leaves, and metals on hystero-epileptic patients." Surely nothing can justify such a statement but personal observation at the Salpêtrière, and neither Dr. Aitken nor Dr. Carpenter appear to have themselves ever seen any experiments at the Salpêtrière or elsewhere. Dr. Stone's remarkable case at St. Thomas's is worth more than any amount of dogmatic scepticism.

In conclusion, we cordially commend this work—in spite of a few trivial blemishes—as a laborious text-book of Medicine.

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*The German-English Dictionary of Words and Terms used in Medicine and its Cognate Sciences.* By FAN COURT BARNES, M.D., Aberd., M.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis. 1881.

The want of such a dictionary has long been felt. Dr. Barnes acknowledges his indebtedness to previous dictionaries, including "Cutler's Dictionary of German Medical Words," which recently appeared in America. The possessor of the present work obtains, therefore, the great advantage of having in one volume what he would have to search for in many, with the addition of other words which have been

omitted in all. We hope this attempt to meet an important desideratum will be encouraged as it deserves. We would suggest that in a future edition, which no doubt will be called for, the meaning of some terms should be given in a little more detail. Thus under "Verrücktheit" it would be essential the translator of a work on Medical Psychology should find more help than he would derive from the definition "Madness, Insanity." No mention is made of "Primäre Verrücktheit," or "Secundäre Verrücktheit," terms so puzzling to the reader of German psychology. "Narr" and "Narrheit" are omitted, and, therefore, the modification of meaning which has occurred in the use of these words. "Zwangsvorstellung" is rendered "idea or notion of compulsion, or of being constrained," but the patient who suffers from this form of insanity is not necessarily possessed of the idea that he is compelled or constrained. It is implied by the term, as used by German psychologists, that he is the subject of involuntary ideas or thoughts—an obsession. "Blödsinn" is not translated so as to help the translator to understand its relation to dementia, nor are "angeborener Blödsinn" and "erworbener Blödsinn" introduced.

No doubt, as is inevitable, this dictionary admits of additions and the introduction of finer shades of meaning, but this fact does not prevent our commendation of the labour expended by Dr. Barnes upon it.

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### PART III.—PSYCHOLOGICAL RETROSPECT.

#### 1. *English Retrospect.*

##### *Asylum Reports for 1879.*

It is the habit of some to talk of this annual notice of the reports as a review. It in no way deserves such a title, for it is simply a notice, and is intended to rescue from oblivion any fact or statement which may interest or instruct the readers of the Journal. For obvious reasons it is not desirable that any very severe literary or other test be applied to these publications. Most of the writers are members of this society, and would not like, supposing they are but ordinary mortals, that their annual effort in composition should be roughly handled in a journal which they help to maintain. Besides, most superintendents are compelled to write a report, whether they feel able for it or not, and their consent is not asked for its publication; they