

can warmly commend it; it is written in idiomatic English without any sacrifice of accuracy or lucidity. There are a few slight misprints, and since the references to French books which exist in English translations have in most cases been given to the page in the English translation, it would have been well to adopt that system uniformly. These, however, are but trifling defects.

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*The Good Regent: a Chronicle Play.* By Sir T. GRAINGER STEWART, M.D., LL.D. Blackwood, 1898, demy 8vo, pp. 207.

Although there is no end to the books about Mary, Queen of Scots, and there are biographies of Knox, Lethington, and even of Bothwell, it was left for the accomplished Professor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh to exhibit in a special work the character and history of James Stuart, the Earl of Moray, who, in truth, was a noble figure. He was a skilful general, who fought with success against the English and the French, and routed the forces of the Gordons and the Hamiltons. He was the leader of the Scottish Reformation, and during the time he was Regent he gave to Scotland order and peace, which were sadly broken by his untimely death. The book is intended to give the history of the Good Regent, and the events in which he played a part, in a dramatic form.

The author portrays Moray as a man whose love of power and desire to play a great part is kept under by a sense of duty, and who only yields to his ambition when the guilt and imprudence of his sister leaves the field open. But it is a disadvantage to depict the character of a man wholly pure and austere, and Sir Thomas excites more interest in bringing out the subtle character of Maitland of Lethington, whose change of side is explained by the influence of his wife, one of the Queen's Maries. There is much psychological analysis in the book. The only character likely to specially interest us is the Earl of Bothwell, who died mad at Braxholm Castle in Denmark. It is noteworthy that the Stuarts were almost the only royal family in Europe who never had any insane members.

The reader may safely take this book for a correct and judicious view of the events in which Moray played a part. We would fain have more space to enlarge on the beauty of the poetical descriptions.

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*Mortality from Consumption in Asylums for Idiots.*

Dr. A. Friis, Superintendent of the Custodial Asylum for Imbeciles at Ebberödgaard, read a paper on "Tuberculosis in Danish Asylums for Idiots" to the Congress for Abnormal Schools at Copenhagen, of which we give the following extracts. After stating what is known of the frequency of phthisis, especially in the English, Scottish, and

German asylums for idiots, Dr. Friis gave some statistics of what has been noted in Denmark on this subject. From the Keller Asylums at Copenhagen particulars are only stated for the last three years: the mortality has in this time been very low, only 38 deaths in about 600 patients; of these deaths 14 were owing to tuberculosis. In Gamle Bakkehus, Copenhagen, there had been since 1853 172 deaths (number of patients increasing from two to about 200); of these 74 were owing to tuberculosis—*i. e.* an average mortality of 43 per cent. to the total number of deaths. In Ebberödgaard there have in the past six years been 148 deaths; 63 of these—42·5 per cent.—were owing to tubercular disease. Yet Dr. Friis found by post-mortem examination in Ebberödgaard tubercular deposits in 56 per cent. of the cases; Keller found them in 50 per cent. of his cases; from Gamle Bakkehus there are no specifications.

The death-rate of the two sexes was in Gamle Bakkehus 44·3 per cent. for males and 40·9 per cent. for females; in Ebberödgaard 42·7 per cent. and 42·3 per cent. From the Keller Asylums no specification, according to the low number. According to age, in Ebberödgaard there are 39 deaths before and 109 after the fifteenth year. Of the first, only 10 deaths, or 25·6 per cent., were owing to tuberculosis; of the latter as many as 53, 48·6 per cent. By post-mortem examination the indications of latent tubercular disease, on the contrary, were found more frequently in children than in adults. In Gamle Bakkehus, of 90 deaths before the fifteenth year, tuberculosis was the cause in 32 cases (35·5 per cent.), while of 82 after this term 42 (52·2 per cent.) were owing to this disease. Of the adults, idiots of the lower grades and the epileptics were most affected.

In this country we now hear a good deal about the prevention of consumption, and some rather crude proposals have been published in the newspapers. Nevertheless the prevention of this malady in asylums for idiots never seems to excite any attention, even from those bound to look after such institutions. As the inmates are under complete control, and their health is much influenced by judicious hygienic and dietetic arrangements, it would be at least an interesting experiment to try whether the death-rates from phthisis could not be reduced. As far as we have noticed, the larger the mortality they exhibit the more praise these institutions get for the success of their arrangements.

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*Report of the Departmental Committee on Prison Dietaries, 1899.*

Nothing more fully exemplifies the adage, "Times change, and we change with them," than the treatment accorded to prisoners in this country in respect to their diet. Time was, and that not so long ago, when, in addition to deprivation of liberty, it was considered just and right that the unfortunate prisoner should also be subjected to a course of semi-starvation. By degrees the great psychological truth dawned on the minds of those in authority, that if you starve the physical man, the