

added that a chapter, written by a specialist, on General Paralysis of the Insane, has been inserted. This is as it should be, as general practitioners have few opportunities, either at college or in text-books, of learning anything of this most important disease.

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*A Manual of Psychological Medicine and Allied Nervous Diseases.* By EDWARD C. MANN, M.D. Philadelphia: Blakiston. 1883. London: J. and A. Churchill.

This ponderous book does not call for a lengthened notice. Though there is a good deal of valuable work in it (mainly extracts from other writers), the author has failed to give it scientific form. Undigested lumps, so to speak, of the most diverse qualities are mixed up with a menstruum so thin as to be devoid of solvent action. In an appendix there is a carefully prepared abstract of the laws relating to the care of the insane in the various states of the Union by the author's brother. We had almost forgotten to thank Dr. Mann for one original statement. At least we confess that it is quite new to us. "Psychological Medicine" is, he informs us, a "Nervous Disease." W. R. H.

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*Insanity Considered in its Medico-Legal Relations.* By T. R. BUCKHAM, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia: Lippincott. 1883.

Such is the anomalous state of the law in regard to insanity both in this country and in America, and so generally are these imperfections recognized that any author dealing with the subject can hardly fail to make a number of irrefutable criticisms and of useful suggestions. It may further be said that law is so rebellious to amendment, and custom is so sturdily opposed to reform, that any fair attempt to bring them into conformity with science deserves a hearty welcome. The work before us, whatever may be its demerits, is at least such an attempt. The chief objects the author had in view "were to point out the pernicious uncertainty of verdicts in insanity trials, with the hope that by arousing attention to the magnitude of the evil, at least some of the more objectionable features of our medical jurisprudence may be removed; to faithfully call attention to the more prominent causes of that uncertainty;" "and with the most friendly feelings for both my own and the legal profession, to criticize severely, and to censure when necessary, not the individuals, but the system which has

made insanity trials a reproach to courts, lawyers, and the medical profession."

The work consists of five chapters and an appendix. The first chapter is introductory, and is intended to clear the ground more or less. The next three chapters expound different theories of insanity. The fifth and last chapter, and perhaps also the most important, is upon experts. The appendix gives a large number of extracts from judges' speeches.

At the outset Dr. Buckham has little difficulty in showing that "underlying the whole subject of the jurisprudence of insanity, as a potent cause of the uncertainty of verdicts, is the fact that the real premises are imperfectly understood. At every trial the question, 'What is insanity?' is reiterated, and no definition has yet been furnished that commands general credence and acceptance. The opinions of the courts as expressed in their rulings and charges to juries are contradictory one of another, and physicians called to testify as experts exhibit in their evidence anything but uniformity of opinion."

The author's efforts towards a better state of things in this direction do not appear to have much value except for the antiquary of generations to come. The gist of Dr. Buckham's exposition is this: There are three prominent theories of insanity, namely, the psychical or metaphysical theory; the somatic or materialistic theory; and the intermediate theory of Messrs. Wharton and Stillé. But these theories are all either imperfect or absolutely wrong; and the only theory in accordance with all the facts is the author's own, the "physical media" theory. This theory might be described shortly as the somatic or materialistic view with a saving clause for the "freedom of the will." Like the metaphysical theory, however, it "regards the mind as a distinct, intangible, incorporeal entity, not dependent upon the body for its existence; but, unlike the 'Metaphysical Theory,' it recognises the most intimate relations between mind and body, and holds that in this life the mind is *wholly dependent* for the manifestations of its operations on certain organs of the body which we designate '*physical media*.'" It treats insanity as a physical disease; "hence in that most important respect, in their 'medico-legal relations,' there is no *practical* difference between" it and the somatic theory. The mind, according to the author's showing, is on much more intimate terms with the body in his theory than in the intermediate theory; nevertheless the "freedom of the will,"

dragged in by machinery, is introduced to avert the "absolute irresponsibility" that would flow from the somatic view. Whereas had the author rightly understood the doctrine he attempts to controvert he would have perceived that his machinery was unnecessary.

A definition of insanity is given:—"A DISEASED OR DISORDERED CONDITION OR MALFORMATION OF THE PHYSICAL ORGANS THROUGH WHICH THE MIND RECEIVES IMPRESSIONS, OR MANIFESTS ITS OPERATIONS, BY WHICH THE WILL AND JUDGMENT ARE IMPAIRED AND THE CONDUCT RENDERED IRRATIONAL. And as a corollary we offer: *Insanity being the result of physical disease, IT IS A MATTER OF FACT to be determined by medical experts NOT A MATTER OF LAW to be decided by legal tests and maxims.*"

In the chapter on experts, it is suggested that superintendents of asylums and assistant superintendents should, as a condition of appointment, pass an examination in law, medicine, and psychology before a specially constituted Board. That only such men after a certain number of years' experience should act as experts in insanity trials, and that it should be part of their duty to do so without payment and only on behalf of the Court; that the fact of insanity should be held to be proved by the testimony of the expert without being subject to legal tests.

The appendix contains an array of judges' opinions; from which it will be seen that there is hardly a theory of insanity that has not been upheld by some luminary of justice.

The size of the book is somewhat disproportionate to the amount of matter contained therein. If the type and the spaces between the lines were reduced to ordinary dimensions the volume would be smaller by one half. Italics and capitals are used with a frequency, not only far from elegant, but to an extent which almost deprives them of emphasis.

W. R. H.

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*Clinical Lectures on Mental Diseases.* By T. S. CLOUSTON, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed. J. and A. Churchill, London:

We shall defer till our next number a full review of this most important book, and at the present time desire only to call the attention of our readers to the fact that an undoubtedly good book has appeared bearing the characters of a clinical guide. It is easier in many respects to write a series of clinical lectures than to prepare a manual, and in