

proved that Cowper might safely be trusted, but an experiment it was, the responsibility of which not one man in three generations would consent or ought to incur. We should, however, take warning by his example, and not let people be in such a hurry to set down all delusions (especially religious delusions) as involving danger either to a man's self or to the public. There are, I suspect, not a few persons confined whom it would be just as perplexing, and yet just as safe, to release as the Poet Cowper. ("Life," by Edwin Hodder, Vol. ii., p. 113.)

Shaftesbury on Cowper! With this significant passage we close our review, and commend Mr. Wright's work to the readers of the Journal.

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*A Treatise on Nervous and Mental Diseases, for Students and Practitioners of Medicine.* By LANDON CARTER GRAY, M.D. With one hundred and sixty-eight illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street. 1893.

With the increasing publication of monographs on various branches of medicine, the compilation of a treatise on nervous and mental diseases, or on any other class of diseases, must become more and more tedious and difficult, readers becoming more and more critical. But, without being too exacting, one may still be disappointed with Dr. Carter Gray's work, and after careful perusal we can but award it lukewarm praise. As we shall have occasion to show, it is of decidedly unequal merit—some of the chapters, with the author, we take it, at his best, leave nothing to be desired; but in others we find but scant descriptions, and there are important omissions—omissions which we cannot (after reading the author's preface) qualify as non-essential.

The theme of the book is rigidly therapeutical, the author tells us, and, as a rule, the articles on treatment are good. We do not know on what evidence reliance is placed for this sweeping generalization: "It is yet certain that Europeans in investigating disease regard the patient simply as its vehicle, whilst Americans go one step further and deem the cure all-essential." We may appeal to the numerous suggestions which have been made of late for the treatment of various diseases by Europeans—that of myxœdema by thyroid extract (not mentioned by the author, although the preface bears the date November, 1892), the experiments of Brown-Séguard with animal extracts, etc., etc., and the

investigations of bacteriologists on immunity, as a testimony to the fact that the patient is not simply considered as the vehicle of disease in Europe. The recommendation of Dr. Ch. Macalister to try the effect of the administration of the thymus in pseudo-muscular hypertrophy is probably worth that advocated on theoretical grounds by the author, and we may be allowed to be sceptical concerning the effects of minim doses of belladonna (we suppose the tincture) in Thomsen's disease.

The treatise is divided into three parts: Part I., Introduction; Part II., Nervous diseases; Part III., Mental diseases.

In Part I. we find a good description of the anatomy of the brain, and especially as regards localization. The plates, diagrams, etc., illustrating this portion of the work are generally excellent and well executed; we might, for instance, single out Fig. 28, Fig. 32, Fig. 36, Fig. 37, and Fig. 50.

The bibliography at the end of this, and, indeed, of each chapter in the book, is very useful. Chapter II., on electricity, is well written. It is a summary which every student of medicine should know by heart, and clearly explains the meaning of batteries, milliampères, rheostat, etc.—rudiments which often have never been mastered, or have been forgotten. Dr. Carter Gray prefers, and with reason, the dry Leclanché cell for use in portable batteries, and the Law cell for stationary ones. There are practical remarks concerning diffusion of the electrical currents and its relation to the size of the electrode used, and a useful table of the electrical resistance of the skin in various parts of the body.

The chapters on nervous diseases open with a good practical account of the localization of cortical lesions, and of the symptoms of lesions of the spinal cord. In the discussion of the knee-jerk, the author lays stress on the presence of the spasmodic element in the jerk as an indication of abnormality; in practice, however, the determination of the existence of this spasmodic element is not always an easy matter.

While mentioning that cerebral thermometry is not a common clinical aid, still Dr. Carter Gray thinks "that in doubtful cases of intra-cranial neoplasm it may be of great value when there is a local rise of temperature implicating one or more *stations* on one side of the head." Further

experiments and observations by Mosso and others in this direction are much needed.

In the description of the various nervous diseases, we like the tabular form adopted in enumerating the brain symptoms and the different causes; it helps to impress them upon the mind of the reader. Among the best articles in the book, some of which are really excellent, we venture to select the following: On myelitis, progressive muscular atrophy, the cerebral palsies of childhood, intracranial growths, epilepsy, neurasthenia, and syphilis of the nervous system. In the last-mentioned there are judicious remarks concerning the administration of iodide of potassium—such an important element in cerebral treatment.

Unfortunately, it is by comparison with the above that we notice a falling off in the account of many other diseases.

In the discussion on meningitis there is too little said about tubercular meningitis. Dr. Carter Gray discards altogether the ice-bag or mercury inunction, and advocates ergot in the treatment of meningitis.

Attention is drawn to the relation between migraine and epilepsy, and the author believes that at some time or other in the history of the cases there is a loss of consciousness with migraine. As regards its treatment, *cannabis indica* is advocated with as much force as the bromides in epilepsy.

There is an interesting account, under the heading of chorea, of some cases which develop suddenly after a slight attack of rheumatism, and in which we find the association of rapid pulse and rapid breathing. According to the author, the rôle of articular rheumatism in the etiology of chorea has been very much over-estimated; in 250 cases, he gives only 18 in which rheumatism enters into the causation. We think something more might be said concerning the relation of chorea to valvular disease of the heart; so good an observer as the late Dr. Hilton Fagge says that "this lesion (*i.e.*, simple inflammation of the valves of the heart) probably occurs in almost every case of chorea." The circumstance that chorea and acute rheumatism are almost alone in giving rise to this disease of the cardiac valves of itself suggests a close relation between the two.

Considering the enormous literature on the subject, the great variety in the symptoms of hysteria, and the importance of an accurate diagnosis, we think the article in this book is too short. In many cases, in spite of the author's opinion, we believe that the anæsthesia of hysteria is

characteristic, as Charcot has so frequently pointed out, and helps us strongly to differentiate it from the anæsthesia due to organic lesion. We should have expected also under this heading a description of hysterical tremors (bare mention of which is made in discussing the differential diagnosis of disseminated sclerosis), of hysterical vomiting (of which a case is mentioned, p. 517), and hysterical paralysis (paraplegia, monoplegia, etc.).

The subject of neurasthenia, so important and so difficult, is wisely included by the author, and ably handled. The symptoms and treatment are carefully given.

We suppose that the frequent difficulty of diagnosing the cause of coma in any given case is the reason that so little is said about it in most of our text-books on nervous diseases, and Dr. Carter Gray's is no exception; and yet how often does it happen that a practitioner sees a patient in this condition for the first time, when a prompt diagnosis may be of the most vital importance.

We do not know whether alcoholic paralysis is as frequent in New York as in London, but we should like to have found a more lengthy description of this characteristic complaint, as well as some reference to its occasional dangerous complications—paralysis of the diaphragm, affections of the vagus, etc. In merely including it under the heading multiple neuritis, the student is left in the dark as to its relative importance and comparative frequency—he is left to the belief that it ranks with the multiple neuritis of arsenic or variola.

Sufficient importance is not attached to the tremors in exophthalmic goitre, which recent observations have proved to be so common, and we have no mention made of cardiac irregularity. Dr. Sansom concludes, after recording a number of cases, that "arhythmia cordis may (in many instances) be considered as a *forme fruste* of Graves' disease."

When compared with the excellent account of locomotor ataxy which is to be found in P. Marie's "Maladies de la Moelle," Dr. Carter Gray's remarks concerning this disease are very meagre; there is scarcely anything said about gastric crises or laryngeal crises, no description of Charcot's joint disease—all symptoms which are usually considered pathognomonic.

We are pleased to find that syringo-myelitis, divers' paralysis, astasia-abasia, and Morvan's disease are con-

sidered. The relation of Morvan's disease to syringomyelitis on the one hand and leprosy on the other requires further elucidation before we can pronounce on its existence as a separate pathological entity.

As the preface bears the date of November, 1892, we are surprised to find no mention of the treatment of myxœdema by thyroid extract, as we said before.

In the interesting account of Ménière's disease, the author expresses a belief that a good deal may be done by treatment directed to the naso-pharynx, and deprecates large doses of quinine.

The article on "alcoholism and morphinomania" is another illustration of what we feel is a marked defect in the book—that is its apparently hurried compilation, or its omissions. There is a fair account of the alcoholic habit, its manifestations, etc., but the student looks in vain for anything about morphinomania.

It is, however, when we deal with the third part of this treatise, *i.e.*, "mental diseases," that we feel most disappointed; it is very sketchy, and conveys as a rule but a feeble portraiture of the various types of insanity, and there is a good deal of importance which is altogether omitted.

In discussing "morbid fears and impulses," the author says that the prognosis is usually excellent with proper treatment, and that suggestion will often work wonders; if so, his statement that "the therapeutic value of hypnotism is small" ought to be qualified.

To mania only three pages are allotted. Under the heading "melancholia" we search in vain for hints concerning dieting, and the important treatment of refusal of food.

There is a brief reference to "melancholia with stupor," but no description of the clinical entity or syndrome "stupor." Whether we consider stupor as an episode in certain mental diseases, or as a separate disease, the "primary dementia" of some authors, it is nevertheless true that stupor is a more or less characteristic condition with its own group of symptoms and signs, and requiring certain treatment.

About "delirium grave," or acute delirious mania (well described by Dr. Percy Smith)—a rather rare condition 'tis true, but a very important one—we find but a few lines.

There is a mention of moral insanity under the heading "moral paranoia," but very little information regarding it.

Without grumbling with the author, who says that it is

absurd to talk of puerperal insanities, it is nevertheless convenient in the present state of our knowledge, and in the absence of a satisfactory classification of insanity, to discuss in a treatise on mental diseases the relation of pregnancy, the puerperium and lactation to insanity. So also should mention be made of the insanities of development, the relation of phthisis to insanity, etc., etc.

Dementia might well have had a chapter devoted to it.

In fact, beyond a fair account of paranoia and general paralysis of the insane (paralytic dementia), there is very little to be recommended in this part of the book. We believe we have said enough to show that, taken as a whole, this treatise is decidedly of unequal merit. Much of it is excellent, and it is generally sound—in the sense of its matter being generally accepted—an important point in a work addressed to students and general practitioners.

For the rest, the publishers are to be praised for their share in the production of the book; the text is well printed, and on good paper; the illustrations are clear; there are, however, a certain number of “clerical errors.”

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*Dr. Pascal.* By ZOLA.

This is a novel written “for a purpose,” the purpose being the exposition of heredity. We are suspicious of such productions for the reason that it is impossible to blend dry scientific facts with the ordinary attributes of popular reading in such a way as to prevent imagination overcoming accuracy. This work, though interesting in many ways, cannot be said to successfully dress science in a popular garb, while it contains many elements of danger to ordinary novel-readers. As to *technique*, we need hardly say that word structure and word painting are masterly. The plot may be described as a weaving of horrors, psychological, moral, and physical, into a tale of rural and domestic life, the latter being just of that easy and natural character which does so much to promote, whether for good or evil, the intaking of the more active incidents.

The general idea is that of an ultra-scientific doctor patiently working out his family history. He constructs a tree on which are shown the characteristics of five generations, he himself being of the third. The theory which he evolves as a result of his studies is such as is generally ac-