

Separate from the rest of the asylum is a residence for the medical director.

The male and female sides are identical in every respect, with the exception of M<sub>3</sub>, which has under it the central station for the steam heating apparatus, with six boilers and a coal-cellar.

Hot water for the baths is obtained from reservoirs, which are heated by means of steam coils. Besides the general bath-rooms (which possess moveable baths, which can be moved on rails to the single rooms), each continuous observation dormitory has curtained baths, like those at Wurzburg, in which acute cases can be placed for extended periods of time in close proximity to their beds, tepid water being used. These are also used for cases which are physically weak or have illnesses which forbid their removal.

The wards are well furnished and the floors are covered with linoleum. The institution is lighted throughout by electricity. In the observation dormitories, in place of electric lights being hung from the ceiling, they are placed fairly low down at each corner of the room, so as to throw a good light upon the beds, and to facilitate the examination of the backs of those continually in bed.

We have to congratulate Professor Sommer on his asylum, the internal arrangements of which have largely been carried out under his personal direction. We have also to congratulate him on the excellent opportunities afforded for clinical observation and research as regards mental disease, and express the hope that they may be productive of good work.

Many in this country will envy his position when it is understood that five assistant medical officers besides himself form the staff of an asylum which is built to accommodate 100 patients, the average number being, however, only from 50 to 62.

The estimated cost of the buildings was £36,750, but this has been exceeded. Private patients pay from three to fifteen marks a day; other patients invariably one mark a day.

---

*Influenza som Aarsg til Sindssygdøm: Historisk-klinisk Undersøgelse af H. Fehr, Reervæge ved Sindssygeanstalten i Viborg (Influenza as a Cause of Insanity, by H. FEHR). Copenhagen, 1889, royal 8vo, pp. 338.*

It confers distinction on the asylum of Viborg to have, within so short an interval, sent out two such able monographs as Dr. Hallager's book on Epilepsy and Dr. Fehr's book upon influenza as a cause of insanity. The author shows great learning, unwearied diligence, and much power of clinical observation and analysis. He traces the history of this *morbis omnium maxime epidemicus* from the papyrus Ebers, the most ancient work on medicine, down to the latest periodicals of the day. Especially interesting are Dr. Fehr's studies of the history of influenza during the Middle Ages. A virulent epidemic is described by Jacob von Königshoven in 1387, and by Nicolas de Baye in 1404.

He shows that in those times also influenza was observed occasionally to affect the mind, causing depression, melancholia, and a proclivity to suicide.

In the next division of the book the author considers the influence of acute diseases—especially smallpox, typhoid and rheumatic fevers, and pneumonia—in inducing delirium and subsequent mental derangement. The relative frequency of insanity attributed to influenza is really small. Fehr finds typhoid assigned as the cause of insanity in 1·18 in the thousand cases of this fever; influenza in but 0·52 in the thousand. Dr. Fehr describes the great pandemic of 1889 and 1890. He illustrates the different ways in which influenza has been found to affect the minds of patients by brief descriptions of 355 cases, partly observed by himself and partly collected from a wide survey of European and American medical literature. He treats of the microbes which are supposed to be the cause of influenza; the most likely of these claimants seems to be the bacillus described by Pfeiffer. Dr. Fehr thinks that the toxin of influenza induces insanity by attacking the weak parts of the organism, thus falling back upon predisposition, to which writers upon lunacy attribute so much, and for which they can give so little explanation. He finds by statistical inquiries that the prevalence of influenza is accompanied by an increase in the number of suicides. Wildermuth, in his work upon Sonderkrankenanstalten, also observes that the great epidemic of 1889—90 was followed by a long-continued state of nervous depression in many persons in Germany. In treating patients affected with this form of insanity he found that hypnotics did more harm than good, and preferred to calm excitement by warm baths and the wet pack. He tries to support the system by frequent meals. Where food is persistently refused he thinks it more prudent not to delay resorting to forcible feeding rather than to wait for the effects of hunger. Where collapse occurs he has some faith in injections of solutions of common salt. For prognosis he observes that out of 52 cases observed by himself there were 26 recovered, 17 remained insane, and 9 died. Dr. Fehr finishes with a list of works upon influenza, of which, as far as the mental disturbances go, his book may be considered as a thorough-going summary.

---

*Methods of Staining the Nervous System.* By Dr. B. POLLACK. Translated from the 2nd German edition by W. R. JACK, M.D., B.Sc. Whittaker and Co., Paternoster Square, 1899. 4s.

The second edition of Pollack's practical work, which appeared in the original German within a year of the date of issue of the first, presents several additions. It has the advantage, for readers in this country, of appearing also in an English translation. For the benefit of those unacquainted with the work we may state its principal contents as follows:—(1) methods of section of the brain; (2) hardening fluids for the central nervous system, with general remarks on hardening and staining; (3) examination of fresh unstained specimens;