

psychoses, such as delusions of self-accusation and persecution, and melancholic persecution, delirium of primary systematised auto-accusation and hypochondriacal systematised delusions, acute systematised delusions, systematised delusions of interpretation, "reasoning" delusions, or delusions of *persécutés-persécutés*. (3) The *dégénérés inférieurs*, such as imbeciles and idiots. Psychical infirmities of involu- tion, or *déchéances*, are essentially characterised by a *dissolution* of the psychic being; there is not, as in degeneracy, a defect of organisation, but an acquired disorganisation of the mental faculties. The clinical forms are dementia, primary or secondary.

A large part of the work is devoted to a study of symptomatic or associated psychopathies of exo-intoxication, auto-intoxication, infectious and nervous diseases. Among psychopathies of intoxication from an external origin, alcoholism is the genuine type; also saturnism, morphinism, cocaine-poisoning, pellagra, *paludisme*, etc. Among the psychopathies of auto-intoxications there are (1) special auto-intoxications, such as gastric intestinal, hepatic, renal, cutaneous, genital, thyroid, etc.; (2) general auto-intoxications, such as diatheses, over-exertion, inanition, traumatism, surgical causes, insolation. Psychopathies of infections are either acute, such as in enteric fever, influenza, pneumonia, eruptive fevers, diphtheria, etc., or chronic, such as in syphilis, tuberculosis, cancer. Psychopathies of nervous diseases might be the outcome of abscess of brain, encephalic tumours, cerebral arterio-sclerosis, apoplexies and softening of the brain, tabes, insular sclerosis, syringomyelia, Parkinson's disease. An important chapter is devoted to general paralysis. Psychopathies might also appear in neuroses such as epilepsy, hysteria, chorea.

The third part of the book deals especially with the practice of psychiatry—diagnosis, treatment, and care. In the last chapter, are successively studied legislation for the insane in France, public and private asylums, admission, management and discharge of lunatics, and various questions concerning medico-legal practice.

All those who take any interest in mental diseases must read the work of Dr. Regis; here they will find a complete account of the actual state of psychiatry.

GERMANY.

By Dr. JOH. BRESLER.

The annual meeting of German alienists at Dresden, April, 1905, discussed largely the question of the housing, care, and treatment of idiots and feeble-minded. It was regretted that the direction of many institutions for idiots and epileptics was still in the hands of clergymen and teachers. The members of the Association agreed to send a resolution to the Boards, wherein a protest was expressed against laymen having the direction of these institutions. A long report on the actual state of the question was given at the meeting by Professor Dr. Weygandt at Würzburg (*vide* "*Ueber Idiotie*," Halle a S., 1906).

At the same meeting it was urged that in the institutions for compulsory education (*Zwangserziehung* or *Fürsorgcerziehung*) psychiatry should have more influence, because many of the pupils are psychopaths.

In the treatment of excitement the use of permanent and prolonged baths becomes more prominent. At the same time, our knowledge of the conditions where these baths are not advisable becomes more exact, and there is no doubt that this form of treatment is by no means a panacea for all forms of insanity. In the private asylums, too, the use of prolonged baths has now been introduced in spite of all the administrative difficulties and the objections of the relatives (*vide* Erlenneyer at Bendorf, *Psychiatr. Neurolog. Wochenschrift*, vii, 1905, No. 37).

The family care of the insane (*familienpflege*) becomes with us more and more extensively practised.

The efforts made by the Prussian military boards to avoid the levy of psychopaths by making inquiries into the antecedents of the recruits and giving instruction to the officers on the symptoms of abnormal psychic states, and by early observation of incipient insanity in soldiers, etc., have been described in a little book by Strieker and Ziehen, Berlin (*Feststellung regelwidriger Geisteszustände bei Heerespflichtigen*, etc.), which merits the interest of alienists.

Latterly much attention is given to the employment of female nurses in the male wards, and we follow with the greatest interest the experiments made in England in this direction (*vide* the articles of Hoppe and Engelken in the *Psychiatr. Neurolog. Wochenschrift*, vii, 1905, Nos. 30, 42.)

The dearth of physicians in the asylums, a consequence of insufficient pay and social position, has reached such a degree that the progress of psychiatric science and practice is in great danger. The salaries of physicians have now been raised in nearly all public asylums, and we hope that the inclinations of the medical world for asylum work will be stimulated and progress maintained.

HOLLAND.

By Dr. F. M. COWAN.

Professor Jelgersma, in a lecture delivered before the Medico-Psychological Society, discussed the several theories of hallucinations, and, after giving a review of the doctrines of various authors, old and new, put forward a theory of his own. He criticised Wernicke's theory of "sejunction," which he considers insufficient to explain facts: (1) because it is well known that the contents of hallucinations are closely connected with the contents of consciousness—*i. e.*, with the sensations, thoughts, and the will (both present and past). In fact, we may see disturbances echoed in hallucinations. (2) According to Wernicke, only what is observed after the process of separation can form the substratum of hallucinations. This is decidedly incorrect; clinical observation teaches us that the entire bygone life may furnish material for hallucinations. Taking into account the importance of our