

ideas, and as a result he is discharged cured. He rejoins his wife, who, receiving him coldly, causes further trouble, which ends in the murder of the child, and the flight of M. Labat. He is taken to another asylum, which is a private adventure asylum, where more brutality is exercised, and the patients are treated more as slaves than as sufferers from disease. Thence M. Labat, who has now become really insane, is taken as an insane criminal to Bicêtre, only to be tested and tortured with electricity. He once more is sent to the original "Maison de Santé," where in the end he is boiled to death in a hot bath by accident. Madame Labat has also become permanently insane, and so the story ends. Such a book is not only unhealthy, but it is mischievous in the last degree; it represents, as if occurring at the present day, a state of mismanagement in asylums which has disappeared for many years. It causes prejudice, not only against the medical profession as a whole, but more particularly against the special branch which we cultivate. It is an untruthful libel. The medical discussions on the symptoms of mental disorder are very exact, pointing to the handiwork of one who has had medical training. "It is a filthy bird that fouls its own nest."

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*Hygiene and Diseases of Warm Climates.* Edited by ANDREW DAVIDSON, M.D., etc. Illustrated with engravings and full-page plates. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1893.

This valuable work consists of 24 chapters, each of which is written by one well acquainted with the subject. Two of them are written by the learned editor. Dealing with the diseases of warm climates, many of the maladies described are unfamiliar to practitioners in Britain, and none of them have special interest to the readers of this Journal save the chapter on goitre by Francis N. Macnamara, M.D. This paper gives a connected account of the prevalence and character of this affection in India, and the conditions under which it occurs. Goitre is principally met with in Northern India at the foot of the Himalayas, in the Delta of the Ganges, in the mud flats of Assam, and in the district of Multan. Dr. Macnamara tells us of places in which the endemic cause of goitre is so intense that a short residence often causes it to appear amongst the troops. Two stations

are mentioned in Upper Assam where a three months' residence insures a well-marked goitre.

Though the connection between goitre and cretinism is not closely traced, we meet with illustrations of the general truth that where goitre prevails cretinism also occurs, though more rarely. It does not appear that Dr. Macnamara has firmly grasped the generalization that goitre, causing a derangement of the functions of the thyroid, induces cretinism, as this gland seems to secrete a fluid necessary or useful for the due nutrition of the brain. We have been too long kept from recognizing this central truth by statements that goitre occurs where there is no cretinism, or that cases of cretinism occur in which, apparently, there is no affection of the thyroid gland. Such exceptions become rarer the more closely they are examined, and further examination will probably tend to reduce or explain them.

Dr. Macnamara tells us that in a number of cases of goitre in which the entire gland was removed "the patients showed no symptoms of myxœdema, a disease which, though looked for, is so far not known in India." It is not noted that the patients in whom the thyroid had been removed showed any of the symptoms of apathy and hebetude observed by Kocher and others in Switzerland, after similar operations, but it is evident that many of the cases in India were lost sight of after the wound had healed. Other chapters, such as those on beriberi and negro lethargy, are of interest to the neurologist.

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*The Asclepiad.* By SIR BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON, M.D., F.R.S. 3rd Quarter, 1893.

The biography of Robt. Boyle, which this number contains, will be read with much interest, and is written in Sir Benjamin Richardson's usual felicitous style. The portrait which accompanies it adds another to the admirable gallery of portraits which alone would make the "Asclepiad" of permanent value. The first article in this number of the "Asclepiad" will be read with interest—"The moment for blood-letting"—seeing that Sir Benjamin Richardson can speak from experience of "the old and new practice." The conclusion arrived at is that revesection is useful now as formerly under the following conditions:—

(1) In acute spasmodic seizures, as in spasm of croup, in colic, and angina with symptoms of oppression from distension of the