

those potentially insane (in whom the surgeon has to consider the possibility of a post-operative psychosis). In those actually insane the surgeon endeavours—(1) to discover the somatic causes of insanity, that is, to determine the relations which may exist between surgical lesions and the diverse forms of mental alienation ; (2) to discover the modifications which the mental state may render necessary in surgical therapeutics, as regards the choice of method and the operative technique ; (3) to study the pathological varieties of disorder most frequently encountered in insane patients.

M. EDEN PAUL.

*Occupation-Therapeutics for Patients suffering from Mental Disorder*  
[*Beschäftigungstherapie bei Geisteskranken*]. (*Psychiat. Neurolog. Wochenschr.*, May 11th and 18th, 1907.) Starlinger, J.

The writer opens by pointing out that it has long been recognised that work is one of the elementary human needs, without which complete mental integrity cannot be secured, and that regular occupation has for many years been recommended and utilised in the treatment of mental disorder. It is only recently, however, that work has been *systematically* employed for therapeutic purposes, and that its immense importance has been recognised as a part of asylum administration. At Mauer-Öhling, the institute of which Starlinger is superintendent, special attention has from the first been devoted to the *employment* of the insane, whether curable or incurable. By occupation, in this relationship, the writer understands any kind of continuous activity, whether useful or not ; and the term embraces not only every kind of work, but also all amusements to which no contra-indication exists.

Among useful occupations, that is, *work* in the ordinary sense of the term, must in the first place be enumerated all kinds of agricultural operations ; every variety of handicraft can also be utilised, whilst for women every variety of domestic occupation is available. There are properly fitted rooms for drawing, painting, and other artistic occupations. A number of the patients also find employment in the offices of the institution. Finally, there are many special occupations which can be utilised in the asylum, such as letter-carrying, driving, road-making, etc.

Starlinger then passes to consider occupations not directly useful—amusements and games—which are all of a similar nature to those utilised in any large English asylum.

The writer lays stress on the importance of interest and continuity in the occupations allotted.

In the institution under consideration there has never been any disastrous result from the employment of the patients. Among 1,420 patients, as many as one half will be regularly employed. Notwithstanding the great number thus engaged, and notwithstanding the risky nature of many of the occupations, there has during thirty-two years never been a serious accident to a patient. Starlinger gives an interesting table showing the percentage of those suffering from various forms of mental disorder whom it was found possible to keep regularly employed :

Mental disorder.	Percentage employed.
Congenital idiocy . . . . .	66·9
Congenital imbecility . . . . .	99·7
Melancholia . . . . .	53
Mania . . . . .	50
Amentia . . . . .	34
Paranoia . . . . .	52
Psychopathia periodica . . . . .	37·8
Dementia . . . . .	41·8
Paralytic dementia . . . . .	14·2
Insanity with epilepsy . . . . .	54·4
Hysterical mental disorders . . . . .	25
Neurasthenic mental disorders . . . . .	60
Alcoholism . . . . .	96

It will be seen that the highest percentage of employable patients is among those suffering from congenital imbecility and from alcoholism. This fact is of economic importance, inasmuch as institutions especially for the reception of congenital imbeciles and of alcoholic patients respectively, could be conducted much less expensively than those for the generality of insane patients, since the majority of the inmates in the former cases can engage in remunerative occupations. To a less extent the same is true of the congenital idiots; whilst in the case of melancholia, mania, paranoia, epilepsy, and neurasthenia, considerably more than half of the patients are employable.

Contrasting male and female patients, there is little difference in the number employable, being 55 *per cent.* in the case of men and 53 *per cent.* in the case of women.

Passing to consider the former occupations of the patients in relation to the possibility of employing them, Starlinger found that the figures were as follows:

Former occupation.	Percentage employed.
Agricultural labourers . . . . .	65
Factory hands . . . . .	78
Skilled artisans . . . . .	55
Brain workers . . . . .	20
Maid-servants . . . . .	50

More than one-third of the patients in the institution (567 in all) had previously had no regular occupation; of these one-half were employable. Striking in the above table is the large percentage of factory hands found employable, and the small percentage of brain workers. Of course the occupation followed in the asylum was not necessarily that in which the patient had been engaged prior to admission.

Starlinger then proceeds to discuss the value of "occupation-therapeutics," and summarises his conclusions in the following words: "Herein we have a method of treatment which can be utilised systematically in about 50 *per cent.* of mixed cases of mental disorder. Its results, materially and mentally, generally and individually, are so important that this method is worthy to be placed beside the other principal elements of the modern management of mental disorder—no restraint, and treatment by rest in bed. . . . The greatest curse of

an asylum," he continues, "is dulness. . . . We have restored the insane their liberty, but to allow our patients to loaf about the asylum is to expose them to the demon of dulness; their freedom must be rendered useful to them by regular occupation." M. EDEN PAUL.

*Remarks on the Clinical Effects of Iodine and the Iodides in States of Stupor and Mental Confusion. (Rev. de Psychiat., November, 1907.) Damaye.*

In a number of cases of the type above defined the writer administered by mouth iodide of potassium or a very dilute Gram's solution of iodine, or administered a more concentrated Gram's solution hypodermically. Rapid improvement ensued in most of the patients, which was attributed to the drug thus employed. He considers that iodine acts as a general stimulant and perhaps as an adjuvant in the struggle of the organism against infective states. M. EDEN PAUL.

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#### 4. Sociology.

*Insanity among Jews [Über die Geistes-Störungen bei den Juden]. (Neurol. Cbl., April 16th, 1908.) Sichel, M.*

It is commonly stated that insanity is specially prevalent among Jews, but usually without proof. Following Pilcz, who has lately investigated the question among the Jews of Vienna, Sichel here studies it in detail from the statistics furnished by the town asylum of the ancient Jewish centre, Frankfurt. He gives his reasons for believing that the results here obtained are fairly free from fallacy.

In 1906 and 1907 there were 1,953 fresh admissions to the asylum; of these 128 (6·5 *per cent.*) were Jews; according to sex there were 4·7 *per cent.* Jews and 10·6 *per cent.* Jewesses. As the proportion of Jews in the general population of Frankfurt is 6·8 *per cent.*, there seems, Sichel believes, no excess of Jews in the asylum. (In Vienna Pilcz found that there was an excess of Jews in the asylum.) When, however, insanity of alcoholic origin is excluded, a different result is obtained, and we find 7·6 *per cent.* Jews and 11·5 *per cent.* Jewesses. Among the Jewish insane, it will be seen, there is a notably higher proportion of women; this is stated to be 49 *per cent.*, while among the non-Jews there were only 28 *per cent.* women. (This refers, it must be remembered, to first admissions.) Sichel proceeds to point out that if epileptic as well as alcoholic insanity is left out of consideration, in all other forms there is a definite predominance of Jews over non-Jews. Circular forms of insanity are very common among Jews. General paralysis is also more prevalent among Jews than among non-Jews (12·5 *per cent.* against 8·3 *per cent.*). Hysteria is decidedly more common, and would have been, Sichel remarks, still more pronounced if its occurrence in wealthy Jewish families could be taken into account. Neuropathic heredity was found in 37·3 non-Jews, in 43·7 Jews. As regard criminal offences committed by the Jewish insane, the great majority were, as might be expected, against property; offences against the person were rare. In