

as Prof. Régis has always maintained the syphilitic origin of this disease, having been one of the first to describe the juvenile form of this malady in congenital syphilitics, we are not surprised to find in this work an account of the latest researches on the existence of the spirochæte in the brain, the discovery of which by Noguchi forms the last link in the chain of evidence proving syphilis to be the essential cause. Considerable attention is devoted to the pathology of general paralysis, and many coloured plates are given; the picture of the fourth ventricle showing the granulations, however, is rather crude and fails to give a proper idea of the condition. The author refers to Ford Robertson's account of the diphtheroid organism in relation to causation and treatment of general paralysis. He states that Candler confirmed this work, which is erroneous, for Candler came to exactly the same conclusion as A. Marie, that they could in no way be regarded as having any causative influence in the production of general paralysis.

The second part of the book deals with medico-legal practice; there is a bibliography of German and French authors, but we confess to a disappointment in not finding there the names of Maudsley and Mercier.

In conclusion, we can strongly recommend this admirable work to all who are interested in the study and practice of psychiatry.

F. W. M.

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*Mental Diseases: A Text-book on Psychiatry for Medical Students and Practitioners.* By R. H. COLE, M.D., M.R.C.P. With 52 Illustrations and Charts. Pp. 343. Price 10s. 6d. net. London: University of London Press, 1913.

ANOTHER text-book, designed especially for the use of medical students and practitioners, can hardly be said to be urgently needed. There are already several recent excellent publications of this nature in the English language, most of which have been reviewed in our columns. We do not, however, intend to make any comparisons, but this can be said of the new-comer—that it is well up to the standard of its predecessors. Text-books of this description are of necessity brief, or they are not read, and the author has sacrificed much to attain this object. Yet there is a breadth of view, a comprehensiveness of plan, and a surprising completeness of detail in little space. It is written throughout in a concise manner, and its numerous illustrations and plates are decidedly good.

The author is obviously influenced by continental ideas, but his discrimination is a wise one, and, on the whole, he follows British methods. The dividing up of the chapters on the various forms of insanity into paragraphs dealing with the ætiology, physical signs, mental symptoms, diagnosis, etc., is very convenient.

The opening chapters on psychology are sufficiently full for the average student. The diagnosis of insanity, its general causation and classification form separate chapters, and are treated in a simple and uncomplicated fashion; we note that in giving definitions of insanity he leaves Dr. Mercier severely alone.

The pathology of insanity is very briefly dealt with, perhaps too much

so, though the many conflicting views and uncertainties which distinguish this subject may be a justification.

In discussing the diagnosis of general paralysis, mention is made of the presence of a leucocytosis in the cerebro-spinal fluid, but it is surprising to have to turn to the chapter on pathology to find any mention of the Wassermann reaction in connection with this disease.

The history of insanity and its incidences is well written, and forms an excellent opening chapter; and the concluding chapters on prognosis, legal relations of insanity, and general treatment are especially good.

Dr. Cole is to be congratulated on producing a plain and very readable book, which fulfils the object for which it was written, and will be of value as an introduction to the study of psychiatry and of special service to the student and the busy practitioner.

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*London Public Health Administration.* Pp. 59. Fcp. 8vo. Price 2s. 6d. net. London: Longmans, Green & Co.

*How to Diagnose Smallpox.* Pp. 104, with 11 Illustrations. Demy 8vo. Price 3s. 6d. net. London: Smith, Elder & Co.

*The Administrative Control of Smallpox.* Pp. 86. Demy 8vo. Price 3s. 6d. net. London: Longmans, Green & Co.

All by W. McC. WANKLYN, B.A. Cantab., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

It is unusual to notice publications such as these, so foreign to psychiatry, in the Journal, but in this case there are circumstances which warrant a departure from established custom.

In the first place, the writer of this notice passed through an extremely anxious time when medical officer in an asylum during the outbreak of smallpox in London some twelve years ago. *How to Diagnose Smallpox*, if it had then been available, would have saved him weeks of worry, and would have been invaluable in dealing with some difficult and atypical cases which actually occurred.

In the second place, Dr. Wanklyn, prior to joining the London County Public Health Service, was a medical officer at Bexley, and afterwards at the Ewell Colony, Epsom, and is thus not a stranger to psychiatry. It was a distinct loss to lunacy and a gain to public health when he transferred his services from one to the other. It is rare to find one who so combines intense accuracy, deep powers of observation, and fidelity of description, with a lucidity and simplicity of expression which is apparent to anybody who reads these books without the added personal knowledge of the author.

It might also be mentioned that Dr. Wanklyn and his then colleague, by their skill, knowledge, and devotion displayed in a unique degree during the smallpox outbreak in London, did a great public service, and saved London from the spread of a dreadful scourge.

It is thus with every pleasure that we draw our readers' attention to these publications.

The first is a very useful summary showing the principal authorities, with the origin, service, and powers connected with public health administration. It is a handy volume, which, although of most use to