

It is a pity that such barbarous expressions as "up-to-date" and "catch on" are allowed to appear in a bound volume, they are bad enough in the daily press; and either the proof-sheets have not been corrected at all or Mr. Whiteway's experience as a conveyancer has given him an insurmountable abhorrence of stops. Ferri Garofalo Lombroso Tarde Feré are not the names of one man, nor are Nicolson Baker Pitcairn Brayn, though, from the absence of punctuation, they appear to be.

CHAS. MERCIER.

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*Les Aliénés devant la Justice* [*The Insane before the Courts*]. Par F. PACTET et H. COLIN. Paris: Masson, Gauthier-Villars. Small 8vo, pp. 176. Price 2 f. 50. *Les Aliénés dans les Prisons* [*The Insane in Prison*]. Same authors and publishers. Pp. 172.

These two little volumes belong to the *Encyclopédie Scientifique des Aide-Mémoire*, a now extensive series notable for the high competence of the writers who have contributed to it and the very clear and condensed style adopted. The authors of these two books (which may be regarded as a single work) are marked out as specially fitted for their task by the fact that one is a physician at the Villejuif Asylum, and that the other was formerly medical officer at Gaillon, whither all cases of insanity occurring in prisoners condemned for periods over one year are supposed to be sent.

The main thesis of the authors is that insane persons are sent to prison and kept there very much more frequently than the optimists would persuade us is the case. The authors draw their illustrations mainly from France, but also bring forward evidence to indicate that the same thing occurs in other countries also. Although their views are expressed very decisively, and with ample confirmatory evidence, they preserve throughout a tone of moderation and sobriety. The attitude adopted is entirely orthodox; indubitable and unquestioned forms of insanity are alone taken into consideration, and no attempt is made to trespass on the province of the criminal anthropologist. This cautious and correct attitude adds strength to the authors' contentions.

Considerable significance attaches to the very unequal contingents of insane prisoners sent to Gaillon from the various prisons of France. It appears that during a period of six years nearly half the number of insane criminals received came from three prisons only; the other half came from as many as twenty-eight Maisons Centrales or prisons, including some of the largest in the country, like Clairvaux and Poissy. It can scarcely be argued that the immense discrepancy is due to a real inequality in the manifestations of insanity in French prisons. The real source of the inequality becomes clear when it is pointed out that the medical supervision of the three prisons in which insanity is most frequently found is in the hands of experienced alienists who had previously been attached to asylums. The other prisons furnish few insane subjects, not because insanity is not present, but because it is unrecognised, or regarded as too trivial for special treatment. It is pointed out that a similar condition of things prevails in the United

States, Elmira, with its more careful and thorough management, sending a very disproportionately large number of insane prisoners to Matteawan.

The chief argument brought forward, however, lies in the records of clinical histories which make up a considerable part of these volumes. Twenty-five cases are given in which various classes of crimes were committed by insane persons (mostly general paralytics), who were condemned and sent to prison; in some cases they were sentenced for fresh offences several times before the insanity was discovered. In the second volume twenty-eight cases (general paralysis, delusions of persecutions, imbecility, etc.) are detailed.

The authors' recommendations are clear and definite: (1) in *all* cases there should be a medical examination of the mental condition of the accused immediately after arrest, usually there need only be a very summary examination; (2) greater care in the selection of experts, all alienists competent to give evidence being inscribed on an official list; (3) special inspection of prisons by alienists, whose sole function it would be to discover and report cases of insanity.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

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*Die Unterbringung Geisteskranker Verbrecher* [The Disposal of Insane Criminals]. Von P. NÄCKE. Halle: Marhold. Large 8vo, pp. 57, 1902.

Dr. Näcke's pamphlet, appearing at the same time as the books just reviewed, discusses some of the same problems and brings forward some of the same arguments. "The day has gone by," he remarks, "when the statement that prisons contain many psychopathic and even insane persons was regarded as a calumny; it is now a commonplace." He proceeds to summarise some of the evidence on this point, and mentions that, in his own experience, of fifty-three women from one fifth to one fourth were improperly sent to prison, while Sommer came to the conclusion that very few of his insane criminals were normal before their deed. The evidence leads to the conclusion that "the majority of insane criminals were insane at the time of the deed, but their insanity was not recognised." That this conclusion holds good for English prisons is, Näcke thinks, proved by Baker's statistics. The majority of those who really become insane in prison belong to the class of criminals by passion.

There are, however, wide differences, both in opinion and practice, concerning the best method of disposing of insane criminals. The greater part of Dr. Näcke's pamphlet is devoted to a condensed but thorough discussion of the various methods. The chief varieties are three: (1) central institutions for all insane criminals; (2) annexes to prisons; (3) annexes to asylums. One of the practical difficulties in settling this question lies in the fact that insane criminals belong to very various categories. The author is, however, decidedly of opinion that recidivists and really criminal characters are rare among them, and that it is unjust to allow our treatment of the majority to be influenced