

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.

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

the symptomatology the tendency to ratiocination is the most notable peculiarity, but Sichel agrees with Pilcz that there is no specific *psychosis judaica*.

The paper contains many other interesting details, and a bibliography of the subject is appended. HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Protection against Criminal Lunatics [*Die Unschädlichmachung geisteskranker Verbrecher*]. (*Psychiat. Neurolog. Wochensch.*, April 11th, 1908.) Dr. Risch.

The article deals with the manner in which insane and weak-minded criminals should be treated, and discusses the use of the term "verminderte Zurechnungsfähigkeit" (mental incapacity, enfeebled power of judgment, insufficient psychological resistance). The author's remarks formed the subject of a leading article in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, Nr. 262. After pointing out that feeble-minded criminals, notably those who have been committed for indecent assault, are set at large after a shorter or longer term of imprisonment, the author suggests that as soon as mental defect is proved, such cases should at once be committed to asylums. Asylum treatment as compared with prison treatment has these advantages, *viz.*, greater precaution taken to prevent discharge until recovery is certain, and the possibility of treatment of the mental condition. The treatment of criminal cases suggested by the author is rest in bed under observation. On no account must the patient be placed in a single room. This treatment is correct for all feeble-minded persons whose habits make them a danger to the community, alcoholics, epileptics, hysterical and criminal paranoiacs.

HAMILTON C. MARR.

5. Asylum Reports issued in 1908.

Albany Hospital Report for 1907. Mosher, J. M.

The fifth report of Pavilion F of the Albany Hospital is as satisfactory as in previous years. Pavilion F still claims to be unique in the United States as the only example of an attempt, in connection with a general hospital, to treat early mental disease "under the voluntary relation, without commitment as insane."

Nearly twelve hundred cases have now been treated, with most satisfactory results, as evidenced by the statistics.

The most striking paragraph in the report is the condemnation of the use of narcotics. Dr. Mosher says, "the failure to induce natural sleep by artificial means might be regarded as axiomatic were it not that these poisons are in almost universal use," and adds, the first effort in treatment "is toward the elimination of noxious substances."

HENRY RAYNER.

Some English County and Borough Asylums.

Brighton Borough.—The Committee is considering the question of making provision for private patients, in a building apart from the