

and well-grounded conclusions arrived at. We hope that this practice will be continued in all future reports, and that, even though the Office is handicapped by a numerically inadequate staff, we may look for still further useful additions of this kind in the coming years. We have arrived at an exceptionally interesting stage in the annals of insanity, and we may perhaps venture to hope that before long we may be in a position to make more cheerful forecasts than hitherto regarding the future prevalence of insanity as the fruit of each year's statistical harvest.

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*Insanity and Allied Neuroses : a Practical and Clinical Manual.* By GEORGE H. SAVAGE, M.D., etc., with the assistance of EDWIN GOODALL, M.D., etc. New and enlarged edition. Cassell & Co., 1907. Pp. 624.

We are glad to welcome a new edition, which is not merely a reprint, of this excellent handbook. Savage's *Manual* has been a household word with the English student and practitioner for the last twenty-three years, and although it is not to be expected, considering the pace we live at nowadays, that it will not need revision within some years, we confidently expect that in the improved form in which it comes before us it will hold its pride of place for several generations of students.

Three chapters in the earlier part of the book are devoted to ætiology. No portion of the author's work shows better his characteristic width of view and balance of judgment. The mixed causation of most cases of insanity is evidently ever present in his mind. The curious purblind tendency of many moderns, which they deem a "scientific" attitude, leading them to deny the existence of any coefficients and to reject every cause except a narrow "physical" one, is quite opposed to the broad, free outlook of our author, who will not shut his eyes to facts merely because they cannot be made to conform to preconceived theories or to the deductions of other branches of science. Even in cases where there is a very well-marked and distinct cause of the toxic order there may be a contributing cause, and the latter may either be what is commonly called "physical" or "psychical." Thus it is shrewdly pointed out that delirium tremens is often known to follow in a toper upon a physical shock or injury. Every experienced physician or surgeon has seen such cases well recognised by the older writers under the designation of *delirium traumaticum*. Dr. Savage points out that under similar conditions a similar state (insanity closely resembling or identical with delirium tremens) may be produced by a severe mental shock. Similarly, he insists in a later chapter on the importance of worry as a factor in the production of general paralysis. "My chief objection to any tabulated returns of the causation of insanity as seen in asylum patients is that it is extremely uncommon to find a simple, straightforward case in which there has been but one predisposing and one exciting cause" (Chapter III). Of course, the statistical tables of our large asylums are only of value as indicating the comparative frequency with which certain causes are attributed to mental illness. Circumstances of various kinds render it impossible in most cases to

obtain a life history of each patient that is of any value. The ignorance of patients' relatives, the stupidity of patients themselves, the numerical insufficiency of the medical staff in all our large asylums, and, above all, that neglect of the methods of clinical research which is so carefully cultivated in this country, combine to render our statistics a very haphazard affair. The conditions at Bethlem Hospital, where Dr. Savage so long worked and taught, are, of course, very different, and this fact, together with his singular sagacity and clearness of judgment, give all his opinions a power and weight rarely to be found in the utterances of any specialist. He is one of those few writers who "see life steadily and see it whole." As Emerson said of Shakespeare, "he is no cow painter nor remarkably eminent at drawing grass." He sees the world as it is and draws it as he sees it, often, indeed, in a large sketchy outline, but always truly. The numerous cases and illustrative histories scattered up and down through this book may be frequently brief, but are ever unlaboured; they are photograph snapshots—exactly to nature and absolutely unadorned with midnight oil or chamber perfumes. They have an air of vigour and veracity which is all their own, and they recall instantly, to those who have had the pleasure of hearing him *viva voce*, the bedside discourses of this great clinical teacher.

In his new edition our author has not thought it necessary to displace the old terms because they are not satisfactory and substitute others quite as vague and eclectic. Thus he has not replaced "mania" and "melancholia" by "manic-depressive" insanity. To "primary dementia" he gives a wider significance than is usually applied to this term, making it cover most cases of an acute or subacute character which do not begin as the distinctly maniacal or melancholic symptoms. Dementia præcox is briefly described under its three main varieties, "but," it is said, "it is not yet definitely proved that all such cases end inevitably in dementia, and that such a termination may, in a very early stage of the disease, be prognosticated by certain specific symptoms. The clinical evidence for the recognition of dementia præcox as a definite disease is insufficient." It is a remarkable thing that neither of the eminent teachers who have been the leaders of clinical psychiatry, respectively in the modern Athens and the modern Babylon, have been able to recognise this dementia præcox as a distinct disease, though they were among the earliest, if, indeed, they were not the very earliest, to describe the remarkable peculiarities often exhibited by the adolescent insane.

The clinical description of general paralysis is of great excellence. The author, however, has probably not reviewed his earlier opinion, with regard to the relation of syphilis to this affection. At any rate in the work before us he attributes far less importance to old-standing syphilitic infection than most writers of to-day. As above mentioned, he lays some weight upon worry and anxiety as causes of this disease. Of course, this is in no way inconsistent with the now common view of the importance of syphilis as a cause, at least, of the predisposing order. The famous saying, "Syphilisation and civilisation," means syphilis *plus* the wearing conditions of modern life, which may, perhaps, be briefly termed "worry."

The recent very remarkable work of Dr. Ford Robertson with regard to the diphtheroid bacilli which that able pathologist has believed to be

the essential cause of this disease is mentioned, with the cautious note that Dr. Robertson's "observations have not, so far, been accepted by English pathologists."

In connection with moral insanity, the sexual perversions are briefly but efficiently dealt with.

A short chapter is given to volitional insanity—obsessions, impulse, doubt—of which we have to say that it is to be regretted that Dr. Savage, from his vast experience, has not given a more detailed account of these interesting border-land conditions, the study of which is so fascinating. By the way, the position of this chapter between "Insanity due to Toxic Influences" and "Idiocy and Imbecility" is a somewhat jolting arrangement. The occasional appearance of what the geologists would call intrusive formations is probably inevitable when a standard work has to be re-written.

The chapters on insanity associated with visceral disease and insanity due to toxic influences are well up to date and not in advance of the times as a good deal of modern writing is. It is wiser to reserve judgment than to assume the truth of a number of hypotheses as yet unproved, and which, perhaps, never will be proved.

The book concludes with chapters on the responsibility of lunatics and the legal relationship of the insane, both useful, the former penned in the usual philosophic spirit of Dr. Savage's writings.

We may fairly infer that the parts of the present work which deal with the morbid anatomy of insanity are chiefly due to Dr. Goodall, and they are well calculated to enhance the reputation of that excellent pathologist. Nothing could be better for the purposes of a student's manual. The descriptions are brief, clear, well balanced, and thoroughly abreast of what is essential in modern work.

On the whole, the new Savage, or, as we should say, the new Savage and Goodall, is to be classed as a text-book of the first rank.

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*Alcoholism: a Chapter in Social Pathology.* By W. C. SULLIVAN, M.D.  
London: James Nisbet and Co., 1906. 8vo. Price 3s. 6d. net.

Dr. Sullivan's work throws a new light upon alcoholism. It is marked by a breadth of view and a freedom from all intolerance which carry the reader through an intelligent and intelligible discussion of this difficult subject with never a wish to skip a page or to elude the issues so clearly set forth. The book is more particularly designed to elucidate the connection of alcoholism with industrial conditions, which hitherto have been inadequately recognised. We thus escape the dreary details which writers on this subject have repeated so uniformly, and at such intolerable length. We are brought to a consideration of a social problem by an array of facts which show how widely Dr. Sullivan has cast his net, and by an orderly process of argument which reveals his well-balanced mind. He introduces the subject with a brief historical sketch which indicates the beginnings of the modern industrial system and the change in the legal attitude towards intemperance, by the Licensing Law of 1551. His new view of the question leads him