

Since the publication of his last work there have been advances in the pathology of idiocy, but his writings still deserve study for his able clinical observations and his acute analysis of mental symptoms.

The principles of education laid down by him in different treatises are still the basis of all teaching of the feeble-minded, and, indeed, are useful in ordinary pedagogy. The ingenuity of his methods, his skill in teaching, and his indomitable perseverance are beyond all praise. Like most enthusiasts, Seguin advanced beyond the strain of ordinary endeavour; he was willing to bestow his efforts to arouse the most torpid mental faculties. Utterly unselfish, he would not have sought a fitter memorial than this republication of his labours which will still carry on his life-work. These writings will be read with much profit by all who are engaged in the teaching of the feeble-minded.

Much praise is due to Dr. Bourneville for including these works in his *Bibliothèque d'éducation spéciale*. This distinguished physician has done a great work for the benefit of idiots and imbeciles by his vigorous revival of the training at the Bicêtre, and by his numerous and valuable contributions to the pathology of idiocy.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

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## Epitome of Current Literature.

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### 1. Physiological Psychology.

*The Theory of Hysteria* [*Hystérie et Sommeil*]. (*Arch. de Neurol.*, May and June, 1907.) Sollier, P.

Sollier here presents a new statement of his theory of hysteria as a form of sleep (first brought forward in 1897, and now based on a study of 200 cases), at the same time answering various objections. As before, he maintains the need of a physiological explanation of hysteria as against Janet's psychological theory. But he admits that (as Binet and Ingegnieros have pointed out) his and Janet's theories complete each other rather than stand in opposition, Sollier maintaining that the evolution of a symptom, in however masterly a manner it may be unravelled, by no means constitutes a pathogenic explanation of the disease presenting that symptom. Sollier's definition of hysteria now is "a functional physical trouble of brain, consisting in a localised or generalised torpor or sleep, temporary or permanent, of the cerebral centres, and translated according to the centre affected by manifestations of a vaso-motor, trophic, visceral, sensorial or motor-psychic nature, and also, according to its variations, its degree and its duration, by transitory crises, permanent stigmata or paroxystic accidents." Confirmed hysterical subjects are thus simply persons in a state of vigil-ambulism, whose sleep is more or less deep, more or less extended; but Sollier now adds that whatever part of the cortex is affected, sensibility, objective and subjective, is immediately and necessarily

affected. "Anæsthesia is the real *sigillum hystericæ*." Hysteria being thus a sleep, treatment consists in a process of awakening by means of super-nutrition, functional re-education, mecano-therapeutics, etc. Sollier admits that hysteria is not a normal sleep, so that his definition thus becomes more like an analogy; as he himself says, the sleep of hysteria is more like that of a compressed nerve which, in popular phrase, "goes to sleep."

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*The Value of Freud's Psycho-analytic Method* [*Die Bedeutung der psychoanalytischen Methode nach Freud*]. (*Clbt. f. Nervenheilk. u. Psychiat.*, January, 1907.) Sadger.

For the past nine years Sadger has employed Freud's methods of treating hysteria and obsessions. He attaches more importance to the practical side of Freud's doctrine than to his theory, which has constantly developed, and cannot yet be considered to be in a satisfactorily final state. But Freud's central idea, that early sexual experiences have a determining and decisive influence on the later history in congenitally predisposed subjects, seems to Sadger, like Lister's ideas in surgery, to inaugurate a new epoch. Before Freud, hysterical symptoms could neither be understood nor permanently removed; in both respects the psycho-analytic method has effected a change. It will be seen that Sadger is an uncompromising champion of Freud's main idea: "Behind every symptom of hysteria and obsessional neurosis lie concealed a mass of sexual wishes," to some extent stretching back to early childhood, sometimes even to the first year of life. Sadger claims that when hysteria is thus understood, no one who properly grasps the technique of the psycho-analytic method can fail to cure it in every case. In the hysterical we are always concerned, he believes, with what are, fundamentally, childish feelings and desires; the hysterical combine the intelligence of the adult with the logic of a child. The germs of all kinds of perversities are to be found at the roots of the hysterical state, not only (and very frequently) homosexuality, but also traces of sadism, masochism, exhibitionism, fetichism, etc. It has been objected that unconscious suggestion plays a large part in this method. Sadger denies that this is the case, and asserts, on the contrary, that the hysterical are peculiarly rebellious to any kind of suggestion outside that of their own ideas. A more serious objection, he admits, is the difficulty of the *technique* of the method and the length of time required to learn it; he considers that it cannot be completely mastered in less than three years. Under these circumstances it is to be feared that the psycho-analytic method, whatever its merits, will be long in gaining recognition.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*The Theory of the Duplex Brain* [*Sur la Symétrie Bilatérale du Corps et sur l'Indépendance Fonctionnelle des Hémisphères Cérébraux*]. (*Arch. de Neurol.*, March—June, 1907.) Bonne, Ch.

In a recent book, Sabatier—setting forth afresh in a very thorough-going and comprehensive manner an ancient theory—has argued that throughout the greater part of the zoological series the entire organism and the consciousness are alike dual, and that simple consciousness is

based on a fundamental double consciousness. This theory, which is both biological and psychological in character, Sabatier terms "duplicism." In a series of four long and detailed articles, Dr. Bonne, of Braqueville Asylum, traverses the entire field and shows that duplicism is contrary to all the data of biology, and also fails to afford any satisfactory theory of the psychological facts it undertakes to explain. He points out that even the concessions made twenty years ago by Ribot as to the possible independence of the cerebral hemispheres under some circumstances are to-day no longer admissible. Dr. Bonne's articles are too closely argued to be easily summarised, but they may be commended to those who may still be inclined to think that the theory of a duplex brain furnishes an easy explanation of complex psychic phenomena.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*The Affective Characters of Perception* [*Les Caractères Affectifs de la Perception*]. (*Journ. de Psychol., Norm. et Path.*, July, 1907.)  
Waynbaum.

The mental product of perception is a state of knowledge. Besides the intellectual factor, however, perception also possesses an affective factor. This emotional element arises in one of two ways: (1) because the perception is not in harmony with the preceding mental state, and thus enters the mind with a certain shock, or (2) because the perception intrinsically contains an emotional element, the latter being, as it were, carried in from the outside world. As regards the first variety the emotional element disappears with repetition, and varies inversely with the preceding state of preparedness of the consciousness. In this case the emotion is due to a direct action upon the lower centres without the intervention of the higher—it is perceptivo-emotional. In the second variety, however, the higher centres are essentially involved, and the process is ideo-emotional. The perception originates an idea, and the idea originates an emotion. The arousal of sympathy is an excellent example of this second type.

BERNARD HART.

## 2. Neurology.

*Remarks on the Investigation of the Ganglion Cells in the Fresh State*  
[*Einige Bemerkungen zur Untersuchung der Ganglien-zellun in frischem Zustand*] (*Centralbl. für Nervenheilkunde, No. 238.*)  
De Montet, Ch.

After describing some of his methods of staining nerve-tissue, Dr. Montet observes that when an examination of considerable area is to be speedily made it is best to examine the tissues in the fresh state without fixing them in any way. He makes a thin section with a double knife and then stretches the preparation. The object glass should be large and slightly warmed, and the staining solutions carefully dropped upon it. After a minute the covering glass is put on. Under this treatment the form of the nerve-cell is preserved and the Nissl corpuscles come well out. Dr. Montet has found that with this