

atry, can read this work without materially increasing his knowledge.

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*Die Heil- und Pflegeanstalten für Psychischkranke des deutschen Sprachgebietes*, in J. 1890. Von Dr. Heinr. Laehr. Mit geographischer Karte. Berlin: Heimer, 1891.

It would be a useful undertaking if some one would write a similar account of the asylums and hospitals for the insane in the British Isles and colonies; another would be needed for the asylums in the United States. We need not enlarge upon the use of this handbook in German-speaking lands. Dr. Laehr's own countrymen have already shown their appreciation of his useful work. The first edition was published in 1852; there was another in 1865, and we possess the one issued in 1875, which contains 183 pages, whereas the present book has 230 pages; the increase is mainly owing to the increased number of asylums and other institutions for the treatment of insanity and idiocy. We advise all members of our profession interested in the treatment of the insane who may be travelling in Germany, Austria, or Switzerland, to get a copy of Dr. Laehr's handy little volume. By consulting the map the tourist may know when he is in the neighbourhood of an asylum, which otherwise he might pass by. There are few such asylums from which something may not be learned. In those which we have visited we have always been received with courtesy, and it may be added that, owing to the linguistic attainments of our German colleagues, ignorance of their language is often compensated by one or other of the resident medical staff. The principal merit of German asylums consists in the large proportion of medical officers, the diligent study of each case, and the persevering endeavours at medical treatment. The notices of each asylum seldom exceed a page, often they are less. Dr. Laehr deserves praise for his clear and concise statements, and the judgment he displays in the selection of details. We give a short translation from the summary at the end.

In the following States of the German-speaking lands (Germany, German Austria, Switzerland, the Baltic provinces of Russia, and Luxemburg), with 67,742,109 inhabitants, there are 296 asylums for the insane, with 692 physicians and 70,028 patients (35,443 males and 34,585 females), and also 162 public asylums, with 489 physicians and 56,168 patients (27,977 males

and 28,191 females), and 134 private asylums, with 203 physicians and 13,860 patients (7466 males and 6394 females). Amongst these there are 56 institutions specially for idiots and epileptics.

The German Empire, with a population of 46,855,704, has 121 public asylums, with 366 physicians and 42,751 patients (21,197 males, 21,554 females), and 114 private asylums, with 172 physicians and 12,983 patients (7032 males and 5951 females). Altogether, 235 asylums, with 538 physicians and 55,734 patients (28,229 males and 27,505 females). There are also, in special asylums, 7537 idiots and epileptics (4116 males and 3421 females). There are therefore, for 100,000 of the population, 118 patients in asylums, to every 104 of these one physician. The establishments for inebriates and public hospitals are not included in this. There are psychiatric clinics attached to the Universities of Berlin (1832), Greifswald (1834), Jena (1848), Würzburg (1848), Erlangen (1850), Munich (1861), Göttingen (1866), Strassburg (1872), Marburg (1877), Breslau (1877), Heidelberg (1878), Halle (1879—85 in Nietleben), Königsberg (1879), Bonn (1882), Leipzig (1882), Freiburg (1887). In Giessen a clinique is being built, and one is being prepared in Rostock.

The institutions for the care of idiots are not sufficient. They are mostly supported by charitable contributions. As education is compulsory, it is to be hoped that public institutions like those in the kingdom of Saxony, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and Berlin will be followed by others.

In the German Empire there are thirteen unions designed to help discharged lunatics. There are six periodicals especially devoted to psychology and psychiatry.

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*Casuistische Beiträge zur forensischen Psychiatrie.* Von Dr. E. Siemerling, o. ö. Professor, Director der psychiatrischen Klinik in Tübingen. Berlin, 1897. 8vo, pp. 172.

In this volume the learned author gives us a report of four persons accused of crimes, who were examined by him with a view to ascertain whether they suffered from mental derangement. These were all pronounced to be sane and responsible; eight other persons, whose cases are described at length, were held to be affected with chronic insanity, and not responsible at law. The descriptions are carefully given, and show much acuteness and a ripe knowledge of insanity. Next to actual