

requirements are, after all, rather narrow and rigid, and it would be strange if, amid the vast range of human characteristics, many combinations did not occur that are far from ideal." The classical dementia præcox shows a complex of traits that are separably not unknown in some degree among persons who pass for normal. Studies of inheritance point to the conclusion that "the functionally insane are mosaics of chance, accidental associations of socially undesirable hereditary traits. As a corollary it seems probable that the Kraepelinian or any other classification of the functionally insane is rather harmful than otherwise, since it distracts attention from the principal points, such as periodicity, temperament, inhibition, the destruction of neurones in the cerebrum, and the specific control of behaviour by internal secretions."

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*The Neurasthenic Element in Disease.* (*Glasgow Med. Journ.*, February, 1916.) *Craig, James.*

The author's object in this paper is to emphasise afresh the fact that neurasthenic symptoms are in some cases the result of underlying disease, organic or other. Half a dozen cases are narrated in illustration of the thesis. The author summarises his conclusions under four heads: (1) Since the early symptoms of disease are often remote from the organ really affected, it is necessary always to make observations away from the point to which the patient calls attention; (2) it is even yet more important to enter sympathetically into the patient's emotional attitude, in order to gain the knowledge that can only be acquired by tracing its multiform ramifications; (3) the acuteness of the neurasthenic symptoms is parallel to the gravity of the disease and on a different level from, for instance, the *spes phthisica*; (4) a very wide and broad view must be taken of the treatment.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*The Pathogeny of Essential and Cerebral Epilepsy* [*Pathogénie de quelques formes d'Epilepsie dites Epilepsie Essentielle et Epilepsie Cérébrale*]. (*Nouvelle Iconographie de la Salpêtrière*, December, 1915) *G. C. Bollen.*

After an extensive series of observations, of which he gives particulars, the author concludes that essential epilepsy is neither caused by intestinal putrefactions (abnormal fermentations, etc.) nor by intoxication by purins, nor by retention of, hypersensibility to, or intoxication from chloride of sodium.

His experiments with the extracts of the ductless glands in the treatment of epilepsy give the following results. Extracts of the thymus, adrenals, pituitary body, liver, pancreas, testicles, and ovaries, separate or combined, have no effect, or very little, on the course of the disease. On the other hand, magnificent results were obtained by the administration of the combined extracts of the thyroid and parathyroid glands.

Seeing the probability that in the action of the secretions of the ductless glands the ferments play an important rôle, and that in the dry state these ferments may lose the whole or part of their activity, the author always employed fresh extracts in his experiments with the whole