

actually engaged in the care and treatment of the insane, such an analysis of mental disorders must be invaluable; and in those instances in which the division between minute shades of insanity does not appear to be necessary, the suggestion excites observation and interest, and sharpens the faculty of diagnosis in subtle phases or varieties of mental disorder. Definitions and classifications, which nature may seem at times to abhor as much as a vacuum, are at least pegs on which to hang knowledge as it is freshly acquired, although in many instances only provisional until a further and fuller collection of clinical facts authorizes a better, because a more simple and natural classification.

This work does credit to, and is very characteristic of, the German School of Psychiatry. It is clear that the Germans have more convolutions or cerebral cells than we have. No better man could have been chosen than the author for the preparation of a scientific work suited for the medical series edited by Prof. v. Ziemssen.*

Compendium der Psychiatrie. Zum Gebrauche für Studierende und Aerzte. Von Dr. EMIL KRAEPELIN, Docent an der Universität, Leipzig. Leipzig, 1883.

This compendium, although designed for the German student in psychiatry, cannot fail to prove useful to the English medical psychologist. It treats of the general pathology of insanity, including ætiology, symptomatology, the course of the disorder, the diagnosis, and the classification of the psychoses. The last subject is one which at the present time attracts much attention, and is widely discussed both in Europe and America. An English psychologist finds it necessary to know the conclusions arrived at by a nation—or, at least, its psychologists—having such a singular aptitude for delicate psychological distinctions, and in this work and in the much more extensive treatise of Dr. Schüle, which we have noticed, he will find what he desires to learn. Under the “German Retrospect,” the reader will be able to follow Dr. Kraepelin’s classification in some detail.

* In a future number we shall, in the “German Retrospect,” complete the enumeration of the various forms of mental disorder given by Schüle.