

plainly signifies deprivation of mind generally, and specially a deprivation dating from birth or early infancy. Sensorial delirium, in the French sense, means an insanity in which illusions or hallucinations are predominant symptoms. Confusional insanity is Griesenger's term, which excludes dementia and specialised delusions; Wahnsinn was monomania, rejected in favour of paranoia, which in turn appears to be suffering eclipse. Verwirthheit apparently remains as an equivalent, more or less exact, for confusional insanity, which is a reasonably descriptive name for a syndrome which occurs frequently enough. It is an inconvenience, a source of irritation, and a reproach to perpetuate unsuitable and equivocal names in describing those disorders. We, no doubt, arrive at the author's meaning in time, but the process is unnecessarily vexatious. If, in reality, amentia is mental ataxia (incoordination) why not call it that? But the alleged characteristic of confusional insanity is also inseparable from other forms of mental disorder.

These considerations lead us far from the immediate subject in hand. It is enough to say that Professor Tanzi's work in the great asylum of Florence has been fitly crowned with the production of a most interesting book which enhances the fame of Italian psychiatry. We are indebted to Dr. Ford Robertson and Dr. Mackenzie, and to those who have helped them in the production of this translation, which will command appreciation as a distinct advance in psychological medicine, scientific in detail and philosophical in outlook.

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*Text-book of Nervous Diseases and Psychiatry.* By CHARLES L. DANA, LL.D. Seventh edition. 264 illustrations. J. & A. Churchill, 1909. 8vo, pp. 782.

When a book reaches its seventh edition it passes beyond the range of an ordinary critical survey. It has already proved its usefulness to the profession and has become popular. Prof. Dana has revised his work, and has fulfilled his desire to make it really representative of present-day neurology. Following out his original ideal, he has added to those parts which deal with the neuron histologically, and with the anatomy and physiology of the brain. It thus becomes a useful handbook for those who desire to keep abreast of the rapidly increasing knowledge of neurological details. A survey of the numerous and excellent illustrations is helpful even without reference to the excellent text. On the other side, psychotherapy, neurasthenia, hysteria, and psychasthenia have engaged Prof. Dana's renewed attention with excellent and practical results. He has been successful in selecting what is of present value, and in presenting the results to his many readers.

Turning to the chapter dealing with insomnia we find the memorable conclusion—that there are many sleep-producing remedies, but no good drugs available; and the further warning that many from childhood up do not get a sufficient amount of sleep. The shorter part of the book relates to psychiatry, and is of less importance than the neurological section.