

interesting, full, and well put together, and the photographs illustrating the book are good and well chosen.

We consider the views expressed of the gradual progressive degeneration of the human race as unwarrantably pessimistic, and those on the ill effects of opium smoking and eating as much exaggerated. His diatribe against cigarette smoking may possibly do some good.

The author does not deal with the treatment of insanity.

A Text-book of Mental Diseases, with Special Reference to the Pathological Aspects of Insanity. By W. BEVAN LEWIS, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., Medical Director, West Riding Asylum, Wakefield. 2nd edition. London: Charles Griffin and Co., Limited, 1899, royal 8vo, pp. xxvi + 609. Illustrations and charts. Price 30s.

We welcome the new edition of Dr. Bevan Lewis's great work, which has been enlarged, revised, and partly rewritten. New matter is mainly to be found in the division devoted to histology, in the clinical section, and in the addition of a chapter on treatment. Some fifty pages of text and a large number of plates and illustrations have been added. As formerly, the book is divided into three sections—anatomical, clinical, and pathological.

In attempting to cover the vast extent of ground mapped out by the author, it cannot but be that there are notable omissions and apparent inequalities of treatment. Since the first edition was published ten years ago, the enormous volume of research and the additional knowledge gained by workers in every civilised country render it necessary to restrict the subject-matter of a text-book to what is, in the opinion of the author, of the first importance. We assume, therefore, that the elaborate description of the cerebral cortex has limited the space at the author's disposal for a fuller description of the other parts of the encephalon. Still it is remarkable that the work of Flechsig relative to association centres finds no place in the anatomical section. We have come to regard Dr. Bevan Lewis as our authority for these anatomical details, which are pregnant with great results in the prevention and treatment of insanity. It is a disappointment that we seek in vain for his opinion on certain important questions of to-day; but we do not doubt that in fulness of time he will yet present us with his matured opinion and authoritative guidance, and that will mean a critical consideration of Flechsig's recent discoveries, with a much fuller account of cerebral physiology. Meanwhile we note that some twenty-three pages are devoted to the minute anatomy of the nerve-cells, which certainly deserve careful study, while the nerve-fibres are disposed of in four pages. In this connection we observe signs of a certain want of systematic arrangement, which renders the book difficult to use in a systematic manner. At page 62 the elementary constituents of the cortex are enumerated, and the first in order is described. Then at page 85 the author repeats his classification on other lines instead of continuing as he set out.

Passing to the clinical section, we find considerable additions from the rich experience gained by personal observation, and from the records of the Wakefield Asylum. Proof of long years of keen attention and powerful thought is manifest, and especially when the diseases discussed have a decided pathological basis, such as alcoholic insanity and general paralysis. Dr. Bevan Lewis is one of the few alienists who have used a reaction time apparatus, and we trust that his description and results will lead to further work in this direction. We would suggest that the more elaborate apparatus described by Dr. Rivers in the *Journal of Mental Science* for 1895 will be used in addition, as it affords a test in choice reaction time. We cannot refer at length to the various points of interest raised by this new edition in the clinical section. Suffice it to say that the chapter dealing with progressive systematised insanity merits careful perusal, and the chapter on treatment may be taken as summarising Dr. Bevan Lewis's methods, which are exclusive of such as assume a connection between mental derangements and visceral disturbance. But this is surely rather sweeping in view of the successful results of treatment in myxoedematous insanity for instance.

With regard to the final chapter on pathology, we find it but little changed, and must conclude that the author has not accepted more recent opinions as satisfactory. Dr. Bevan Lewis cannot but be familiar with the work done since he first presented us with his views as to the scavenger cell, which have not been generally accepted. It may be that in the turmoil of contemporary pathology, and in face of such opinions as Van Gieson's in reference to the retraction of the dendrites, he is desirous of confining himself to what he considers fixed and definite. Be that as it may, we cannot but accept the new edition of this powerful book with respect and admiration for the man who has shown that the responsibilities of everyday work in a great asylum are perfectly compatible with labours of the most exacting and tedious nature. His reward is in the results of these labours and the honour of his high professional position.

Part III.—Psychological Retrospect.

THERAPEUTIC RETROSPECT.

By HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

Action of Peronin (Dr. Meltzer, *Therap. Monatsh.*, June, 1898).—The writer points out the importance, especially in asylum practice and in mental treatment generally, of having many strings to one's bow. We possess, it is true, many hypnotics and narcotics, but habituation, idiosyncrasy, the presence of complications of the disease,