

Leçons de Clinique Thérapeutique sur les Maladies du Système nerveux.
Par GILLES DE LA TOURETTE. Paris: E. Plon, Nourrit et Cie.,
1898, pp. 482.

This, as the title indicates, is not a systematic work, but a series of clinical lectures on various forms of nervous disease, delivered by the author during the past few years. The subjects treated of include cerebral hæmorrhage, neurasthenia, epilepsy, hysteria, facial neuralgia, and migraine, morphinism, Ménière's disease, club foot, syphilitic myelitis, and locomotor ataxia. Some of these lectures have been published previously in book form, and one at least of them (*Les États Neurasthéniques*) has been reviewed in the pages of this Journal. The special feature of the lectures is the avoidance of all anatomical and pathological description, except what is necessary for the elucidation of the subject, and the attention which the author devotes to clinical diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. In most treatises on nervous disease we are used to technical descriptions of symptoms based upon anatomical and physiological principles, and to diagnoses founded upon technical details, which, however valuable and essential, do not form entertaining reading for the ordinary medical practitioner. Moreover, in ordinary books on neurology, treatment occupies such a subsidiary position that one is apt to forget in the detailed description of the disease the fact that treatment is of any service at all. It is, therefore, a positive relief to read a book in which treatment occupies a first place, and in which diagnosis and prognosis are as simply and clearly written as if the author were treating of phthisis or of one of the continued fevers. The great merit of the book is the simplicity and lucidity of its style, and the way in which the author presents his essential facts, so that if once carefully read they can scarcely ever be forgotten. We question very much if, since Trousseau published his famous clinical lectures, there has been produced so simple and, at the same time, so able a description of clinical nervous forms.

Take, for instance, his guide to the prognosis of the course of cerebral hæmorrhage. "If within the first twelve or twenty-four hours after the hæmorrhage the temperature ascends and passes 40° C., death will occur very shortly; if the temperature oscillates about 39° C., and if there exists at the same time conjugate deviation of the head and eyes, or precocious contraction, it is probable that the result will be the same. If the temperature remains stationary about 39° C. for two or three days, and if an acute bed sore appears, the prognosis is the same. If, on the other hand, the temperature remains below 39° C. during the first twenty-four hours, the prognosis is favourable, much more so if it declines further during the succeeding two or three days. Maintain, however, a wise reserve during the first three or four days which follow the shock, for a second hæmorrhage may occur which will be indicated by another elevation of temperature. In aged or feeble persons, be doubtful of a slight thermometric curve, with prolongation of the coma or semi-coma. In order to be able to give a completely favourable prognosis in cerebral hæmorrhage, the coma must not be prolonged

beyond forty-eight hours, and the temperature ought to be almost normal at the end of from four to six days."

Illustrative quotations of this kind might be extended indefinitely, not only from the chapter on cerebral hæmorrhage, but from all the other sections of the book ; but we consider this sufficient to exemplify the clearness of the author's teaching and the practical utility of the book. It would take too long to exemplify the author's various methods of treating different forms of nervous disease, but when it is stated that in this part of the subject he treats of prophylactic, ameliorative, and radical treatment, and that under each head he gives us a profusion of hints, some of which are so apparent that we wonder they have not been more strongly insisted upon, it will be seen that a perusal of the book is required in order to form a just appreciation of its merits. Such a perusal we heartily recommend to those interested in the subject with which the book deals.

Les Paralysies générales progressives, par le Dr. M. KLIPPEL. *L'Œuvre médico-chirurgical*. 1 brochure in 8vo. Paris: Masson et Cie., Price fr. 1'25.

This little brochure is partly a *résumé* of articles published in late years by the author, who appears to be still unaware of most of the contributions to the study of general paralysis made in this country, in consequence of which there is failure, in some respects, to give to various published materials the mention and priority which they would rightfully receive in an adequate and correct summary of the literature of the subject.

The several chapters deal respectively with ; (i) encephalic lesions of the general paralyse ; (ii) encephalic symptoms ; (iii) diagnosis ; (iv) spinal forms ; (v) organs of vegetative life and great sympathetic ; (vi) ætiological and pathogenic conclusions ; (vii) treatment.

That general paralysis is not a simple form of disease, always alike, is so obvious that many attempts have been made to divide the field of observation, both as regards symptoms and as regards lesions. Hence attempts to describe varieties of general paralysis, also those which had as their aim the establishment of links between general paralysis and other affections, and those which led to the description of various forms of so-called pseudo-general paralysis. There have been conflicting tendencies, on the one hand, to narrow and specialise the realm of general paralysis ; on the other, to widen the borders so as to include large clinical and pathological departures from the standard,—then, perhaps, collocating them under an inclusive term as the general paralyse.

This last is the line followed in the publication under notice, which makes of the limits of the progressive general paralyse a very wide net, gathering in a vast shoal of cases, which last are divided into three principal groups. These groups are—