

out a doctor's declaration, as well as they who have not passed the examination, are alike restricted. The propriety of this must be apparent to all who have made themselves acquainted with the system, for they will see that great and irremediable mischief may be done by an ill-advised application of this mode of cure.

3. *French Retrospect.*

By D. HACK TUCKE, F.R.C.P.

Reports on the administration of the departments for Epileptics and for Idiots and Imbecile Children at the Bicêtre.

We regret that a notice of these admirable Reports which have appeared yearly under the auspices of the *Progrès Médical*, has not found a place before now in our Journal. With a limited space at our command, and an unlimited material making demands upon that space, we are compelled to omit much of which the intrinsic merit calls for notice.

The reports consist each of two parts, the first of which deals with the history of the development of the above-named departments, and in particular records the patient, untiring endeavours which the *chefs de service* have brought to the improvement of the administration of these departments, including the formation of a separate department for the treatment of children who are weakminded and idiots. This part has, of course, a special interest for the great People whom it concerns, and it will suffice for us to express our hearty sympathy with the movement and our pleasure at the progress made. To us as Englishmen it is most gratifying to find that our own institutions of Earlswood and Darenth have such commendation from our neighbours.

The second part is clinical, and contains much that interests the specialist in nervous diseases, much that interests the worker in general medicine. An exhaustive critique of this part would take us beyond the limits assigned, but we may select here and there from the 1885 volume. The records of twenty-one cases of epilepsy treated by means of curare are given. The treatment was by subcutaneous injection, and was maintained for periods of three and six months. The conclusions are that the drug is not amongst those serviceable in epilepsy. Of the twenty-one cases one only was distinctly benefited. With these results, it is scarcely worth while giving details as to doses, etc.

Twelve cases of epilepsy treated with sclerotic acid, either by the mouth or subcutaneously, derived benefit in five cases. Four of these cases were under treatment more than a year. The results are described as "peu encourageants," which probably means that, in the cases benefited, the benefit was not striking. A foot-note points out that these negative results accord with the experience of Dr. Gowers as to the uselessness of sclerotic acid in epilepsy.

An outbreak of röheln at the Bicêtre furnished the materials for an inquiry into the nature of this specific exanthem. It is pointed out that

the affinities of this affection are with measles and not with scarlet fever. The likeness to measles they would make to be that, not of twin-sisters, but of half-sisters. "Non deux sœurs jumelles, mais à un certain degré, demi-sœurs." They further suggest that the likeness is something of the kind which obtains between variola and vari-cella! We are tempted to ask what is that likeness? That no real advance has been made in this vexed question will become apparent, we think, if inquirers will turn to p. 107 and consult the "diagnostic." We must confess to some malice in having picked up this apple of discord grown on *arriéré* soil. A case of some interest of congenital idiocy with horse-shoe kidney is detailed. There was a very marked phimosis in this case, which apart from its interest in relation to malformation of other parts, presents this further suggestion that it, and not the horse-shoe kidney, with its anteriorly-placed ureters was the cause of the micturition trouble observed.

Some admirable plates illustrate an interesting case of epilepsy with cerebral hæmorrhage.

These few selections may illustrate the kind of work which the Bicêtre reports undertake. It is clearly the kind of work which large institutions alone can undertake. We heartily commend the great zeal, which must lead to the accumulation of a most valuable *matériel* of clinical and pathological results. H. S.

L'Automatisme Somnambulique devant les Tribunaux. Par Dr. PAUL GARNIER. Paris: J. B. Baillière et Fils, 1887.

La Psychologie du Raisonnement: Recherches Expérimentales par L'Hypnotisme. Par ALFRED BINET. Paris: Felix Alcan, Editeur, 1886.

Animal Magnetism. By ALFRED BINET and CHARLES FÉRÉ. London: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co., 1887. (The International Scientific Series.)

We are glad to see the subject here treated of placed in such trustworthy hands, and only regret the title of the book. It is a pity to retain this misleading term, especially when "hypnotism" is now in general use. We hope to return to this work in our next number, in the meantime recommending our readers to obtain the volume.

Le Langage Intérieur et les Diverses Formes de L'Aphasie. Par GILBERT BALLEZ. Paris: Felix Alcan, Editeur, 1886.

Les Phénomènes Affectifs et les Lois de leur Apparition. Par FR. PAULHAN. Paris: Felix Alcan, Editeur, 1887.

The number of works on hypnotism and allied subjects which have appeared in France during the last two or three years is so great that it is difficult for the reviewer to keep pace with them. They show the extraordinary interest which hypnotism has excited, and how its bearing upon psychology, both in its pure and medical aspect, has become evident to French physicians. Dr. Garnier is well qualified to express an opinion on somnambulism, from his position in connection with the

special infirmary for the insane who come under the notice of the Paris police. He more especially regards the subject of hypnotism in its legal aspects. Blind impulses due to somnambulism are obviously of extreme importance, the subject being totally unconscious of the acts he has committed. He reports the case of a young man charged with theft.*

M. Binet has written a book in a scientific spirit, in which psychological questions are viewed in their relations to hypnotism, not by any means exclusively, but as a help to other methods of inquiry. His theory attempts to explain the process of reasoning by means of images and sensations, and by these properties alone. Nothing intervenes; hence, strictly speaking, the expression, "I reason," is not correct. "It is incorrect to say that a judgment is the act by which the mind compares. It is as if I said that chemical combination is the act by which chemistry reunites two bodies. As the combination of bodies directly results from their properties, so mental combinations, and especially reason, result directly from the properties of images" (p. 161).

M. Ballet's book is written in a very clear style, and the title is happily chosen as representing the extraordinary phenomena so little realized by the world in general, which occur in consequence of subjective conditions which form a world of their own. The work bears more especially upon the different forms of aphasia. The condition known as word-deafness and that of word-blindness are described lucidly, assisted by the diagram or scheme of M. Charcot. Thus, with the infant acquiring the idea of such an object as a bell, this sounds in its ear, the vibrations are transmitted by means of the auditory nerve as far as the common auditory centre, that is to say that portion of the cortex whose function it is to perceive sounds; the vibration and commotion are preserved by the cerebral cells, which henceforth are differentiated. The sound of the bell will become part of the "deposits," so to speak, of the brain, and the deposit will be persistent and durable according to the frequency with which the differentiated cells perceive the vibrations of the bell. The infant who experiences the sensation and remembers the sound has not yet the *idea* of the bell. This presupposes, in effect, the association of different memories and images resulting from many sensorial impressions—the visual impression which will reveal to the subject the general form of the object, its relief, its colour, and the tactile relation which will serve to render the form more precise, and give the notion of the consistency of the bell. In short, the infant will have a complete idea of the bell only at the moment when the intelligence will *associate* the various auditory, visual, and tactile images with one another.

Manuel Pratique de Médecine Mentale; par M. RÉGIS. *Avec une Préface*, par M. BENJAMIN BALL. Paris: Octave Doin. 1885.

Too long a time has been allowed to elapse between the appearance

* A report of this interesting case will appear in our next number.—EDS.

of this work and our notice of it. We commend this Manual for what it professes to be—a practical guide to mental medicine in a portable form. It is not necessary to analyze the book. A few words may be said on the section on “*manie suraigue*,” or *délire aigu*. Mental physicians in England are but too familiar with Acute Delirious Mania and its most serious character. M. Régis’ description of the symptoms would seem, however, to mark a more intensely fatal condition of the system than the form which usually presents itself to us in England. He observes that the correct way of regarding it is to admit a state of hyper-acute mania, sometimes *simple*, consequently without any lesion, and sometimes *associated* with other morbid conditions, as general paralysis and alcoholism, in which there are certain morbid changes. Then follows the description:—“*Délire aigu* is almost always preceded by a stage of premonitory depression, which in certain cases leads one to suppose that the patient labours under an attack of melancholia. Shortly agitation supervenes, and in a few days, sometimes in a few hours, it reaches its highest point of acuteness. The tongue becomes dry, fever is lit up, the pulse exceeds 120, the temperature rapidly rises to between 103·5 and 105; the head is hot, the eyes haggard, the skin covered with greasy perspiration. The patient looks terrified, he is a prey to extreme agitation; he utters incessant cries, constantly spits, or the saliva runs from his mouth; he has a horror of food, and sometimes approaches a condition of hydrophobia. At this moment cure is still possible, but the disorder is much more likely to end in death, which happens between the fifth and the tenth day. Then the fever increases; a comatose condition succeeds to the agitation; the pulse becomes more frequent and weaker; the tongue and the lips become covered with sordes, the breath is foetid, the breathing oppressed; the excretions are passed involuntarily; there is persistent insomnia; twitchings, convulsions, general or partial, occur; *typhoid* symptoms follow; there is diarrhoea, the pulse is imperceptible, the coma becomes more and more profound; lastly, fainting-fits occur, and the patient dies, either suddenly during syncope or slowly from nervous exhaustion.” It will be seen from the above, that the description of acute delirious mania would be incomplete, according to English experience, were so intense a form as this to be the only one presented to the student. A series of cases occur, doubtless requiring the greatest possible care and treatment, marked by delirium and prostration, and usually with some rise of temperature; but the majority of cases recover if placed promptly under care. We should like to know from French alienists whether they are not familiar with cases of this kind as well as the extreme form described by M. Régis. The Manual commences with a brief, but useful historical sketch of the insane in ancient times. The book is very well got up.

Le cerveau et l'activité cérébrale au point de vue Psycho-physiologique.

PAR ALEXANDRE HERZEN. Paris: J. B. Baillière, 1887.

We are obliged to defer a notice of this able work to our next number.