

frequency, chronic alcoholism, paranoia and epilepsy were the prevailing forms in men ; while melancholia, paranoia and dementia præcox were the prevailing forms in women. It should be added that, while recognising the evils of alcohol, Näcke is sceptical regarding statements about "chronic alcoholism," on account of the difficulty of determining where alcoholism begins, and (while speaking very highly of such workers as Sullivan) he protests against the unscientific exaggerations so common in this matter. He has much of interest to say in regard to the relation of the various psychoses to family murder.

A final section is devoted to prophylaxis. Näcke is not prepared to agree with Toulouse that the patient need not be confined until he has shown signs of being dangerous, and thinks that the possibility of his becoming dangerous must be viewed from a more comprehensive standpoint. It must also be remembered that the family is often an acute cause of irritation to the patient. Delusions or hallucinations involving ideas of persecution or jealousy concentrated on the family should furnish warning indications, and the character of the patient, rather than the form of the insanity, should determine the mode of procedure. As regards social prophylaxis, early marriage should be discouraged and divorce rendered easier. It is necessary, also, to teach stringently the undesirability of marriage between the neuropathic and degenerate of whatever class. In such cases Näcke is, moreover, in favour of castration in the form of vasectomy, on the ethical ground that every child has a right to be well born. With reference to infanticide, Näcke advocates the increased protection of the mother and the establishment of homes for pregnant and suckling women, as well as for illegitimate children. He would have an absolute equality of legitimate and illegitimate offspring, as being demanded not only by reason and morality, but by the State's need of good citizens. Some of these demands, it is obvious, although they are gaining ground in Germany, will not meet with universal approval, and in any case medicine alone is impotent to carry them into practice.

It is scarcely necessary to remark that the author shows throughout his usual care and precision, as well as his extremely wide knowledge of the literature of his subject ; he is equally familiar with what has been done in Anglo-Saxon and in Latin lands. At the end of the volume the main facts concerning the cases dealt with are conveniently arranged in a tabular form.

A monograph of this kind inevitably raises the question as to the relationship between insanity and criminality. Dr. Näcke briefly discusses this relationship, and reaches the temperate and reasonable conclusion that, while the criminal and the insane appear on a common ground of extremely degenerate heredity, they are not identical, although related.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Guide to the Clinical Examination and Treatment of Sick Children.
2nd Edition. By JOHN THOMSON, M.D. Edinburgh and London:
Green & Sons. Demy 8vo., pp. 650.

We are pleased to see a new and enlarged edition of this most useful book. Dr. Thomson has shown rare skill in the description of

the clinical aspects of the diseases of children. This is much assisted by well-chosen illustrations, of which there are 160. In unfolding the resources of medicine he only presents such pathological details as bear directly upon treatment. The neurologist will read with interest the chapters upon the symptoms of nervous diseases, and on paralysis and meningitis. Dr. Thomson's observations on the first signs of mental feebleness in infancy form a real addition to our knowledge. He advises the medical attendant not to be too ready in telling the parents that their child is mentally defective, because a large proportion of imbecile babies die early, and the parents are thus spared a most unpleasant piece of information. If a sudden intimation of this kind be made, they either refuse to accept it, or it causes such discouragement as to paralyse their efforts for the child's improvement. "It is by trying to make him do things better that they will come to see the true state of the case." In his description of Mongolism, Dr. Thomson tells us that the characteristic transverse fissures of the tongue do not appear before the third or fourth year. He does not mention the very decided liability of Mongolian idiots to fall victims to tubercular disease. The most cheering pages about the treatment of feeble-mindedness in children are those which record the thyroid administration in sporadic cretinism. The increase of growth and bodily health arouse hopes of corresponding mental improvement which are not always fulfilled. Dr. Thomson gives the caution that, if the thyroid treatment be commenced as late as the age of puberty, it has a tendency to cause softening of the shafts of the long bones, so that, if the patient be kept much on his feet, marked bow-leg will develop.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

[This Epitome is mainly a record of psychiatric and allied work published in the exchange journals, chiefly foreign. Abstracts are not, as a rule, made from the more widely-read journals published in the United Kingdom. The Editors would be obliged if members of the Association, who are willing to assist with the translation of the various foreign articles, would communicate with the Assistant Editor, Horton Asylum, Epsom.]

1. Anthropology.

The Brains of Distinguished Men ("A Study of the Brains of Six Eminent Scientists and Scholars"). (*Trans. Am. Phil. Soc.*, vol. xxi., 1907.) Spitzka, E. A.

For some years past Prof. Spitzka has devoted himself with admirable energy and ability to the task of securing and investigating the brains of men of high intellectual distinction. He has been so successful that at