

to marriage the ceremony was carried out in the asylum by the civil authorities with the support of the medical staff. A few days later the patient left to the care of his wife.

Possible legal objections to such a contract are fully stated and argued, but the author concludes that there is nothing in French law to prevent its legality, whether the patient is voluntary or certified, provided he is aware of what he is doing and is not acting under duress.

In the discussion which followed the paper, it was remarked that as the patient was able to leave the institution immediately after the ceremony, it would have been simpler to send him out before it.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*The Psychiatric Clinic of Adolf Meyer [La Clinique Psychiatrique d'Adolf Meyer]. (Ann. Méd. Psych., March, 1926.) Flourno, H.*

This paper is a very detailed account of the psychiatric clinic at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, managed by Meyer, and of its methods and aims. The clinic contains 100 beds, and all mental cases of any severity are eligible for admission. The majority are carefully diagnosed, and the pathology worked out as far as possible with the aid of the three-connected laboratories—medical, neuro-anatomical and psychological—and then transferred for suitable treatment. A number of cases are retained for longer periods for study and research. No certification or analogous step is required, and it has not been found that the treating in the same building of severe mental cases and slight neuroses has had any disadvantages. Treatment is on broad lines, but the most encouraging results have been obtained from scientifically adjusted occupation. Great importance is attached to obtaining a complete life-history in all cases, and careful inquiry is made into the home life and environment of all patients by a "social service" before any attempt is made to help each to readjust himself. In view of the important influence they can bring to bear on mental patients, nurses in the clinic are always given sufficient enlightenment about the special difficulties of the cases in their charge. The Meyer Clinic is rigidly limited in size in order that each case may have exhaustive study, but it is not stated how the cases to be admitted are selected from the large numbers constantly seeking admission.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*The Arthritic Diathesis and Epilepsy [Arthritisme et Épilepsie]. (Ann. Méd. Psych., March, 1926.) Pasturel, M.*

The author, after seven years' experience in the care and study of epileptics, has concluded that idiopathic epilepsy is closely allied to the arthritic diathesis. This thesis is developed at length in the paper. He states that arthritism comprises gout, obesity, diabetes, biliary lithiasis, migraine, asthma and chronic poly-articular rheumatism. Points of agreement between epileptics and sufferers from gout, etc., are recorded, and typical symptoms in both are regarded as due to a retardation of the lymph-flow, and by