

called "moral" as opposed to "intellectual" insanity. He cited a number of cases, manic-depressives, obsessionals, hypertensives, a child with a temporary behaviour disorder, and others. None of his cases were psychopaths in the modern sense. He realized the forensic importance of his conception, since in his time and later the Courts regarded intellectual disturbance (chiefly in the form of delusion) as the essential criterion of insanity. It was this association of the term "moral insanity" with forensic arguments that led in later years to the shift of meaning by which it came to be applied exclusively to persons supposed to have lost or to have failed to develop a sense of right and wrong.

The monumental work by Drs. Hunter and Macalpine is on different lines altogether, being arranged as an anthology or source-book of British (with a few exceptions) authors from the mid-16th to the mid-19th century. But this is a wholly inadequate description of the scope of the work; for in the first place numerous references to mental disorder, hitherto almost unknown, have been brought to light, not all from medical writings but all in some way illuminating current ideas and theories. Thus for the 17th century alone extracts are given from 79 authors. Moreover, for every author throughout the book (including also extracts from official reports, Acts of Parliament and so on) there is provided a thoughtful commentary, sometimes of essay proportions, pointing out the significance and context of the works quoted, and linking them to contemporary conditions and later developments. These comments can in fact be read through as a continuous history.

In their preface, the authors point out that existing histories tend either to dwell on legislative and social aspects only, or to incline to excessive theorizing and generalizing. They rightly remind the reader that "lack of appreciation of the past also tends to foster over-valuation of modern achievements and the stultifying assumption that what is present is good and what is bad is past"—in fact the condescension and complacency which Sir Aubrey Lewis too has condemned.

The authors have therefore striven throughout to achieve a fair evaluation not only of the writings from which they quote, but also of the tendencies and the contemporary settings with which each is associated, and this without concealing or minimizing the shortcomings of the past. Their own bias—which favours psychological interpretations of mental illness and is sceptical as to the value of physical methods of treatment—is made so clear, that the reader can easily discount its effect according to his own leanings.

It is interesting to compare the authors' treatment of Haslam, Prichard and Conolly with the corresponding chapters in Dr. Leigh's book. Instead of being singled out they take their places in a procession of a hundred or more contemporaries. Haslam, in the reviewer's opinion, is under-represented; one misses quotations from his "Moral Management" e.g. his advice on the status of keepers, occupation or after-care. Prichard receives an adequate discussion, but the reference to Benjamin Rush is perhaps misleading, since Rush really did have psychopaths in mind, as Prichard did not. Conolly is given two separate entries, representing distinct periods in his life and thought, together with one of the major commentaries. It is a pleasure for the reviewer to find many of the neglected works to which he tried to draw attention ten years ago now brought to light and attractively displayed in the pages of this handsome volume. Wisely also, the authors have included extracts from the English translation of Pinel, in view of the influence this exercised in Britain and the continued need for a true appreciation of Pinel's work, free from the myths which have gathered round it. Nor have such miscellaneous items been omitted as the description of the second Bethlem in Strype's edition of Stow, or the relevant extract from Thomas Guy's will providing for the admission of incurable lunatics to his hospital.

Faced with so much erudition the reviewer feels that he must confine his Cruden-like urge for detecting errors to minor points of London topography. The "Madd House" (the old Northampton Manor House) in St. John Street was not on the site of the present Northampton Polytechnic but further south, where until the last war stood the Martyrs' Memorial Church; and the first St. Luke's Hospital can hardly be described as having been "opposite Bethlem", as it was nearly half a mile away at Windmill Hill (commemorated by Hill Street, now Bonhill Street), near Wesley's Chapel.

The authors of both these books are to be warmly congratulated, and we look forward confidently to further major contributions from their fertile pens.

ALEXANDER WALK.

**Richard Lower, De Catarrhis 1672.** Edited and translated by RICHARD HUNTER and IDA MACALPINE. London: Dawsons of Pall Mall. Pp. 29. 1963. Price 35s.

Richard Lower was one of the famous "Oxford physiologists" of the 17th century. He is chiefly remembered for his book, *Tractatus de Corde* (1669),

in which he showed that blood acquired its bright red colour in the lungs from the absorption of a constituent of the air. He is remembered too, though with less credit, for performing one of the earliest blood transfusions—from a sheep to a man, the man being (as Pepys noted) “cracked a little in the head”. The *Tractatus de Corde*, like successful modern textbooks, went through a number of editions, revised to incorporate fresh knowledge. The second edition contained a new chapter entitled *De Catarrhis* in which the author challenged the prevailing view that catarrh, originating in the cranial cavity, descended into the nose through the holes in the cribriform plate. This important chapter was also published as a separate tract, with the laudable aim of saving those who had bought the first edition of the *De Corde* from having to buy the second as well. Long lost to scholars, a copy of this separate tract was recently discovered by Drs. Hunter and MacAlpine; and the *De Catarrhis* is now re-published in facsimile, translated for the first time into English, and set with a brief account of Lower’s life, a commentary on the text, and a bibliographical analysis.

Any short work which, at a single blow, shatters a long-established opinion and replaces it by an enduring new one must be a subject of peculiar interest to the historian and research worker. “Native and original truth”, said Locke, “is not so easily wrought out of the mine as we, who have it delivered already dug and fashioned into our hands, are apt to imagine.” Reading the 14 pages of the *De Catarrhis*, we can watch Lower at work in the mine of truth. It is a strange spectacle. Of the many arguments he puts forward, some are obviously unsound and almost all are doubtful. His case really rests on the bare assertion that catarrh could not pass through the cribriform holes because in life the holes are all stuffed up with nerves—a simple statement of the obvious, like Harvey’s that there are no pores in the interventricular septum, though Harvey emphasized his with an expletive (“sed mehercule porositates nullae sunt”). Unlike Harvey, however, Lower adduced no experimental support for a new explanation and it would be a pretty study in the nature of medical opinion to determine why his views on the origin of catarrh seem to have commanded such immediate and general acceptance.

Drs. Hunter and MacAlpine continue to put psychiatrists in debt to them for their historical researches. The preparation of the present volume has clearly been a labour of love, and though 35s. might seem a high price to pay for 29 pages (the original tract cost fourpence) it is a collector’s piece and finely produced.

E. HARE.

**One Hundred Years of Psychiatry.** By EMIL KRAEPELIN. Translated by W. Baskin. London: Peter Owen. Pp. 163, illustrated. 1962. Price 25s.

This book is a translation of a short history of psychiatry which was first published in 1918. The publishers have edited an epilogue about Dr. H. P. Laqueur which is supposed to give the reader an account of the progress in psychiatry since the book was first published. As Kraepelin is naturally modest about his contribution to the specialty, this book naturally gives a somewhat distorted account of psychiatry because there is no account of the fundamental contribution made by Kraepelin himself. It would, therefore, be logical to expect a scholarly introduction to this work. However, the publishers have thought otherwise.

At the best the translation is indifferent and from time to time it is incomprehensible. Thus, during a discussion by Heinroth on the psychological causation of insanity, we are told “As one would expect, such reviews were loudly protested by the ‘somatic’ school of alienists”. The result of this poor translation is that the uninitiated will scarcely be able to appreciate the points made by the author. Thus Kahlbaum’s great contribution appears as “He was the first to stress the necessity of juxtaposing the condition of the patient, his transitory symptoms and the basic pattern underlying the disease”.

When first published this book had 35 illustrations, whereas the present book contains 16. Some of these, such as photographs of Adolf Meyer, Josef Breuer, Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler and Manfred Sakel have obviously been inserted by the publisher. It is regrettable that it has not been seen fit to have this book edited by someone with a knowledge of the history of psychiatry. Kraepelin did not realize that an “apothecary” to an English hospital in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was a doctor, often the equivalent of a resident medical officer, so that John Haslam was in fact a medical man. Here the German word has been translated as “pharmacist”—a totally misleading description.

On the whole, the book deals mainly with the concepts of mental illness which flourished between 1800 and 1870 and the activities of the German University Nervenkliniken are not adequately presented. With so much interesting German psychiatric literature which is inaccessible to most English-speaking psychiatrists, it is difficult to see why anyone should think it worth while to translate or publish this book. The young post-graduate student in search of truth would do better to spend his 25 shillings on Ackerknecht’s *Short History of Psychiatry*.

FRANK FISH.