

readers will peruse them in their entirety, although the chief use of such an encyclopædia on the shelves of asylum libraries must be to enable us to keep in touch with the great body of modern medicine and surgery in the midst of our ordinary avocations. To elucidate cases of difficulty and as a guide in the maze of contending opinions the *Encyclopædia Medica* will prove invaluable.

La Démence précoce. Par le Dr. G. DENY et P. ROY. Paris : Baillière et Fils, 1903. Pp. 96 ; eleven plates. Price 1.50 fr.

This little book gives an admirable *résumé* of the subject, and it forms a volume of that practical series *Les Actualités Médicales*. Dementia præcox is now generally recognised as a definite clinical group of mental diseases, and the authors treat of the group under three headings: (1) the form of hebephrenia or mania; (2) the form of katatonia or stupor; (3) the form of paranoia.

The authors recognise the first form as the most common, affecting the character, the moral sentiments, and the intellect generally. The clinical pictures are presented with much skill and sincerity, and the illustrations are very helpful and characteristic. Following the usual clear-headed methods of French writers, the whole of the questions relative to the disorders considered are worked out precisely and briefly—yet not so briefly as to obscure the authors' meaning. They confirm previous observers in stating that dementia præcox is slightly more common in the male sex, and that they find about 70 *per cent.* of the cases have an hereditary history of insanity. The results of organotherapy would seem to leave the authors in doubt as to its efficacy. They note that passive gymnastics are indicated in katatonia, and lay stress on moral influences. We commend this work as a concise history and practical handbook in relation to this group of maladies.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Anthropology.

Anthropometric Variations due to Sex and Height [*L'homme moyen à Paris*]. (*Bull. Soc. d'Anth. de Paris*, 1902, fasc. 4.) Papillault, G.

THE appearance of this valuable memoir can be only briefly noted. It is one of the most important contributions to an exact knowledge of the body—the proportions of head, trunk, and limbs—which has been made during recent years. Dr. Papillault, who belongs to the school of Manouvrier, and is a teacher at the Paris Laboratory of Anthropology,

carefully measured, in accordance with the best technical methods, two hundred bodies (one hundred of each sex) belonging to the anatomical department. They were all French, between the ages of 24 and 50, and markedly pathological cases were excluded. The author discusses his results with much ability and with a wide knowledge of the literature. He clearly shows that the differences between men and women, like those between the infant and the adult, may largely be explained as due simply to differences in size. In addition to secondary sexual characters, he adopts the conception of tertiary sexual characters as brought forward by the present writer, but appears to consider his own definition of such characters as new and distinct; while possibly more precise, it remains, however, practically the same. HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Considerations on Infantilism, etc. [*Considerazioni antropologiche sull' infantilismo, etc.*]. (*Monitore Zoologico Italiano*, 1903, Nos. 4—5.) *Giuffrida-Ruggeri.*

The author, who is one of the ablest of the younger Italian anthropologists, here brings together various facts and considerations bearing on infantilism, the significance of sexual differences, and the question of the origin of human varieties—to some extent founding his paper on the recent elaborate researches of Manouvrier, Godin, and Papillault.

Infantilism may be defined as an arrest of development between the ages of thirteen and sixteen, not necessarily accompanied by any decreased growth in mere size; owing to this arrest, however, whatever the increase in size, the relative proportions of the body retain the same youthful ratio as they possessed before the arrest took place. The presence of such arrest may be shown by various indications. The author refers, for instance, to the relative height of the nipple and the lower extremity of the body of the sternum: in the child the nipple is considerably higher in relation to the extremity of the sternum; in the adult the difference is only a few millimetres. A relatively high nipple may thus be regarded as an anthropometric stigma of infantilism. It has been asserted that the relative height of the upper borders of the symphysis pubis and of the great trochanter furnishes a similar indication, the first being lower in the child, and the two points nearly level in the adult; this, however, while asserted by Godin, is denied by Papillault. Another infantile characteristic is the proportionately greater length of the lower limbs as compared to the trunk; until the age of fifteen, Godin found, increase of height is mainly due to the lower limbs, afterwards to the trunk. This, however, is not true of women.

At this point the author passes on to a theme which he has often dealt with, the supposed infantilism of women. He proceeds to bring forward a number of facts and arguments showing that, while there may be in women either sexual divergence from men, or equality, there is no evidence for morphological inferiority. It must be pointed out, however, that the author has here been somewhat carried away by his favourite thesis, and has fallen into a confusion of terms. Although at one point he recognises that “inferiority” and “infantilism” are perfectly distinct, he writes on the whole as though they were identical.