

*The Pathological Statistics of Insanity.* By FRANCIS O. SIMPSON, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London, 1900, pp. 132 (including tables). Price 10s. 6d.

This work consists of—(1) A scheme for collecting the pathological statistics of the insane brain, which is comprehensive, and which might be followed with advantage. (2) Two chapters; the first dealing with the insane cranium and giving the changes observed in the various forms of insanity; the second concerned with the naked-eye changes found in the insane brain. The records are based on the observation of 398 cases (245 males, 153 females). We find a statement to the effect that progressive paralysis is much more prevalent, more speedily fatal, and of more insidious origin in the north of England than in the south. The author presumably speaks from his experience in Yorkshire and Hampshire (the latter largely an agricultural county). We have heard a general assertion to the same effect, and there may be sufficient grounds for it, but we should prefer definite evidence. Is the above statement true in respect of the West Riding asylums as compared with those of London? And how do the asylums further north, say of Durham and Northumberland (where mining districts are served), compare in this respect with those of the West Riding? Glamorganshire lies south-west, but we should be much surprised if inquiry showed progressive paralysis to be, in any of the respects mentioned, appreciably different there from the disease as seen in Yorkshire. (3) Successive tables are given, following the scheme, for both sexes, together and separately, stating in percentages the conditions found under the different headings, and these for all forms of insanity and for separate forms. Lastly, comparative tables are given on a like plan, stating the percentages for the different forms of insanity in parallel columns for easy comparison. These tables, representing much labour, are especially likely to be useful, and should recommend the work as one for reference to those interested in the subject dealt with.

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*Asylums on the Continent.* Report of a Deputation of the Lancashire Asylums Board. (W. F. Jackson and Sons, Salford, 1900, pp. 71. Can be had from the Clerk to the Lancashire Asylums Board, Preston. Price 5s. and postage).

In view of additional asylum accommodation being required in Lancashire, the Asylum Board there appointed a deputation consisting of Alderman Jenkins, Vice-Chairman of the Board, Dr. Cassidy, and Dr. Wigglesworth, to visit some continental asylums, and submit recommendations regarding the form which the new accommodation should take. The present book is the report made by that deputation. Ten asylums in Germany and four in France were visited, as well as the Gheel Asylum and Lunatic Colony in Belgium. In each case a description is given of the architectural features, general plan, and arrangements of the asylum, and detailed information is added on a number of points connected with administration and management, par-