

for the teaching of brain pathology, by establishing lectures and demonstrations by asylum pathologists wherever this is possible.

The pathologists of our asylums would be greatly benefited and stimulated by such a connection with our teaching bodies. A lectureship in a university or medical college would be a great incentive, and would probably enable a certain proportion of them to make this work their life aim and occupation, instead of being, as it occasionally is, a stepping-stone to more lucrative positions, or, more frequently, a loss of time, so far as professional advancement is concerned, leading to the abandonment of the work by men who have obtained very valuable experience and achieved no inconsiderable success. Further, the establishment of such lectureships should form a very efficient means of enlisting the student's interest in the pathology of insanity at that stage of his career when he is inclined to emulate the enthusiasm of his teachers. This is greatly to be desired and would doubtless result in attracting a due proportion of the abler students to this special branch of medicine, and, eventually, in a great increase in the knowledge of it by the general body of the profession.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the asylum pathological laboratories, of which we are so justly proud, should no longer be allowed to "waste their fragrance" on the English medical desert, as, judging from some criticisms, they now appear to do, but should be brought into prominence and usefulness by becoming associated with our professional teaching institutions.

The need is urgent, and there should be no delay in pressing on this matter. It is to be hoped that the annual meeting will not pass by without some effort being made by the Medico-Psychological Association to assert the claims of our pathologists and pathological laboratories.

Part II.—Reviews.

Das Sexualleben unserer Zeit [*The Sexual Life of our Time*]. By Dr. IWAN BLOCH. Berlin: Marcus, 1907. Pp. 822, 8vo. Price 12 m.

Dr. Bloch is widely known as the author of various able and learned works on various subjects in which history and medicine meet,

and more especially by the remarkable work, *Der Ursprung der Syphilis*, in which he has exhaustively discussed the evidence which seems to demonstrate the American origin of syphilis. This latest volume is, however, perhaps the most important work he has put forth, and certainly the most ambitious. It is designed as nothing less than "an encyclopædia of sexual science," and it is not easy to find any aspect of this many-sided subject which has here been neglected. One is tempted to compare Dr. Bloch's work with the scarcely less comprehensive work by Dr. Forel, *Der Sexuelle Frage* (now translated into French), which was briefly reviewed in the Journal last year. Such a comparison well brings out the essentially unlike character of the two books, although there is no very wide divergence of opinion on most of the main topics, and both writers place themselves at the point of view of modern science and culture. The marked individuality of each writer makes itself clearly felt. Forel, a man of strong and sometimes even somewhat extravagant independence, and pronounced personal moral convictions, relies mainly on his own practical experience and on his own intuitions; while these generally guide him aright, his indifference to the results of other workers and his disdain of the minutiae of exact research and scholarship sometimes lead him into error or eccentricity. Bloch, who is not only a physician but a patient and indefatigable scholar, tireless in research, perpetually testing his own work and modifying his results when modification seems necessary, approaches his task in a much more objective spirit. His erudition in respect to every department of his subject is amazing and prodigious, and scarcely less remarkable is his power of presenting it in a condensed and attractive form. Anyone who has mastered this book, it may be confidently said, not only possesses all the main results attained in this field up to date, but also has in his hands the necessary clues for further investigation.

The volume contains as many as thirty-three chapters, each discussing some separate important problem. The psychic and physical aspects of love are first considered, the secondary sexual characters in their relation to love, the woman question in the same connection, modesty, sexuality, and religion, individualisation in love. Then the author turns successively to free love, marriage, prostitution, venereal diseases, and the questions connected with the control of venereal disease; here Dr. Bloch is in his own special department, and writes in his most vigorous and illuminative manner. Formerly an adherent of the old view in favour of the official registration and regulation of brothels, he has now joined the increasing number of distinguished authorities who, following Blaschko, recognise the futility of all such attempts. But he approaches the problem of syphilis hopefully, as merely an episode of European civilisation, a drama in five acts, each lasting a century; we are now, he believes, at the beginning of the fifth act, and it is the task of the present century, working through medicine and hygiene in co-operation with social measures, to bring that drama to a conclusion.

Eight chapters are devoted to the chief forms of sexual perversion, special attention being given to the question of homo-sexuality. In former works the author adopted the now somewhat antiquated view that homo-sexuality is mainly acquired, but with his alert mind, ever

ready to modify his attitude with riper knowledge, he has now abandoned that position. During the last few years he has given special study to sexual inversion, investigating many cases, and has come to the conclusion that a very large number of such cases are congenital; he would, indeed, confine the term "homo-sexuality" to such congenital cases, and establish a separate group, under the heading of "pseudo-homo-sexuality," for acquired cases. With Magnus Hirschfeld, who undoubtedly has a wider acquaintance with sexual inversion than any other living authority, he believes there can no longer be any doubt that "homo-sexuality may be associated with complete mental and physical health." In regard to the very difficult question of the treatment of perversions, Bloch lays weight on personal influence through suggestion; actual hypnotism he is not enthusiastic about, but he considers that very much good is done to the patient even by mere intercourse with a wise physician experienced in such cases. A chapter is given to the question of sexual offences before the law, the conclusion being that these matters mainly concern medicine, and that the judge of the future in this field must be the physician. The last nine chapters are devoted to various miscellaneous subjects, the question of sexual abstinence, sexual hygiene, neo-Malthusianism, pornographic literature, etc.

The author has written a weighty, learned, comprehensive, and even brilliant treatise which cannot fail to be helpful and instructive even to those who have given most study to the subjects here discussed. Is it too much to hope that the book will some day be translated into English?

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Epilepsy: A Study of the Idiopathic Disease. By WILLIAM ALDREN TURNER, M.D. Edin. London: Macmillan, 1907. 8vo. Pp. 272.

Dr. Aldren Turner has given us a well-arranged and carefully-thought-out study of idiopathic epilepsy. He has embodied in his book the views of all the principal authorities, and has also given his own personal observations, which have been deduced from 1000 cases which were under his care at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, and also at the Colony for Epileptics, Chalfont St. Peter. The book is written from a clinical standpoint, and all the different features of the disease are well brought out and placed under definite headings in such a way as to make it an excellent book for consultation.

The first chapter is introductory, and here is discussed in general the various conditions underlying the epileptic convulsions and psychoses. In regarding epilepsy as an organic disease of the brain, he points out that he may be going further than some other observers, but he supports his view by "the unsatisfactory results of treatment in the majority of cases, the overwhelming numbers of epileptics who become victims of the confirmed disease, and the progressive character of both the paroxysmal and inter-paroxysmal symptoms." The next two chapters are devoted to etiology, which is taken up in all its aspects, and