all the facts of the case must be taken into consideration, and not only one fact—such as the albumen alone. In the third lecture the pigments of the urine are discussed, including urobilinuria, hæmatoporphyrinuria, chromogens, and the allied aromatic sulphates. Indicanuria is said to possess the same significance as excessive amounts of skatol pigments, and points to the excessive breaking up of proteid matter. As is generally taught now, the microscope is stated to be the best means of recognising blood in the urine; the hæmin crystal test is also a very good one, but the spectroscope requires expert hands and is therefore naturally of more limited value. Lecture IV contains an account of hæmoglobinuria and of the bile pigments. The warning against the incautious use of glycerine—which, when injected into the circulation of animals, produces hæmoglobinuria—is a timely one.

The question of obstructive and non-obstructive jaundice comes up once more under the bile pigments. Jaundice in phosphorus poisoning is due to an obstruction of the minute bile passages; this disposes of one group of cases of so-called non-obstructive jaundice, and the author boldly states that the cases in the remaining group are really urobilinuria. In Lecture V the nitrogenous constituents of clinical importance are described, including urea, uric acid, and creatinin. The last named is present in much larger quantities than uric acid, but has less clinical importance owing to its solubility. Again the author tells us with some decision that urea is not a very important constituent of the urine, as it varies largely with the individual's diet. He points out with much show of reason that the excess of urea present in diabetes is thus not necessarily derived from the nitrogen of the body tissues. The remarks on the soluble quadriurates and their relation to gravel and gout are interesting. Many important facts will also be found upon glycosuria at the end of Lecture VI and in Lecture VII. The salts of the urine are dealt with in the eighth and ninth lectures. A high percentage of salts is needed to keep the uric acid in the form of quadriurates. Phosphates are stated to be mainly derived from the food.

We can most cordially recommend these lectures to students and practitioners alike; they bring together in small space and in clear language numerous facts which otherwise would have to be collected from many sources. They are perhaps a little dogmatic in style, as all lectures must needs be, but they come obviously from an author deeply and practically versed in his subject.

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A Textbook of Mental Diseases. By T. H. Kellogg, A.M. M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1897. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 792. 25s.)

Messrs. Churchill have been so long recognised as publishers of works of the highest authority in mental diseases, that it is at once a kind of certificate of value when they publish a book on insanity. We, however, hardly recognise the necessity for bringing out in England this book written by an American physician, for though it is a big book, we find little or nothing original in it. It aims at providing the student, the practitioner, and the psychiatrist with a book of instruction and of reference. It certainly covers a very large field, extending from the early history of insanity and its treatment to the present day. We admit that this collection of statistics as to the prevalence of insanity is of interest, and seems to be trustworthy, but in the third chapter we have a tedious collection of the forms of classification extending from those of Stable and Sauvage to that of Sohmer in 1894, which is enough to frighten the student. The author's classification is very elaborate, and appears to be more complicated than convenient. It may be useful to the psychiatric student, but we doubt if the ordinary medical student will master it.

The chapter on the etiology of insanity is carefully prepared, and contains matters of interest in relationship to the conditions leading to insanity. The question of true education is ably considered.

A short but good chapter follows on the evolution, stadia, clinical progression, and termination of mental disorders; and this method of treating the various disorders together is preferable to the usual method of considering the various kinds of mania or melancholia as if they were specific mental entities.

The mental and the physical symptoms of mental disease are taken in separate chapters, and every care is given to their study and relative value. Some very fair photographs illustrate the physiognomy of mental disease, and sphygmographs of less value follow. The pathology and diagnosis of the forms of mental disease occupy two important chapters.

Treatment of the most scientific and humane kind is described at great length. Dr. Kellogg sums up his belief as to restraint thus: "Mechanical restraint, though often less outraging than the personal laying on of hands by attendants, and less apt to result in physical injury to the patient, is open to great facility of abuse, and is only to be applied in certain extreme cases." With regard to hypnotism, he is sceptical as to its utility in treating the insane. The illustration on page 495 of feeding with the stomach tube is liable to mislead, for if the head be bent back as here represented the passage of the tube would be almost impossible.

The second part of the book contains the description of the special groups and typical forms of insanity. These are not arranged in the ordinary way, but the plan is satisfactory.

Though, as we began by saying, we hardly see the need for the importation of this book, yet English asylum officers may learn something by its perusal.

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# REPORTS AND ANALYSES
AND
# DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS
IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.


## A GLASS TANK FOR SURGICAL DRESSINGS.

Messrs. Reynolds and Branson (13, Briggate, Leeds) have forwarded a specimen of glass tanks they have devised for the storage of surgical dressings. These tanks are made in different sizes, and are likely to prove very useful to the surgical practitioner, since they supply convenient and secure receptacles for antiseptic appliances. They have the same diameter at the mouth as at the base, are strong and well made, and are furnished with closely-fitting covers, so that their contents are well protected from contamination.

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## NEW ENEMA.

Messrs. S. Maw, Son, and Thompson have sent us a new enema, sold by them at 21s. per dozen. The syringe sent us is certainly a very good one.

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## SOLOIDS.

Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., Snow Hill Buildings, E.C., prepare in a compressed form various combinations of drugs for external use under the name of "soloids." The samples recently received include a soloid of zinc sulphate, lead acetate, opium, and tannin, another of zinc sulphate and alum, and one with borax and opium. These soloids are intended to be dissolved in lukewarm water to form solutions for use in gynæcological practice. The advantages of this form of compressed drug are portability and convenience for ready preparation of solutions.

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Aluminium Cooking Vessels.—The Surgeon-General with the Madras Government has issued instructions to the medical officers of the General Hospital, Ophthalmic and Maternity Hospitals to test the value of aluminium vessels for use in hospital in place of copper and brass as at present. Samples of this class of vessels required are accordingly being sent to the Museum of the School of Arts, and the work will be set on foot at once when a large supply of the metal will arrive from England.