

In the chapter on the Sensory Centres and Sensation, the author should have been more explicit as to what he regards as the "*sensorium commune* proper", or centre for the reception of the impressions made upon the nerves of common sensation. Though this is one of the disputed points of cerebral physiology at the present day, and one to which by his plan he was peculiarly bound, he evades the discussion of the question, and neither tells us whether he places it in the optic thalamus or in the pons Varolii. Inasmuch, however, as his views and phraseology are on so many points in accordance with those of Dr. Carpenter, we can only presume that he agrees with him also as regards the *sensorium commune*. We believe, however, that this view of the function of the optic thalamus grew out of incorrect notions concerning the functions and termination of the posterior columns of the cord; and we look upon the experiments of Longet as not only utterly disproving this theory of the function of the optic thalamus, but also as showing, with an approach to certainty, that one of the functions of the pons is of this nature. We have not space to touch here upon the interesting question as to how far the impressions which have travelled upwards to such an extent are capable of revealing themselves in consciousness as definite sensations; but we should like to ask Dr. Maudsley if he has thoroughly realised to himself the actual differences between a sensation of this kind, an ordinary sensation, and an "idea". We must confess that he seems to us not to have done so; which is the more to be regretted, since it is just here that, after all that he has said concerning the vagueness of metaphysicians, we might have expected considerable precision of language. Here, too, however, much as he may dislike it, he would have to stand on ground which was common to himself and to the metaphysician. Did he half realise this fact in his own consciousness, and instinctively eschew the companionship?

The chapter on Volition, as well as some others in the first part, are admirable, and we only regret that we cannot call attention to many of the views expressed; but they must be read *in extenso*, to be properly appreciated. We will only note, by way of criticism, that the author seems to accept as proven many of the anatomical theories of Schroeder van der Kolk, which are by no means so well established or so generally accepted as he seems to suppose. We should have been glad, too, to have seen, in the body of the work, the occasional mention of the names of Mr. Herbert Spencer and of Dr. Carpenter, by whose writings we think Dr. Maudsley has been not a little influenced, while he has not sufficiently recognised their labours.

The second part of the book is, in fact, a treatise on "Insanity", which will be read with interest and advantage. The author's views are broad and enlightened, and in many places are stamped with originality. His chapter upon the "Causation" of insanity is excellent, and that upon the Insanity of Early Life—both new in substance, and confirmatory of the principles unfolded in the earlier part of the volume. In the chapter on the Varieties of Insanity (the longest in this part of the book), the subject is handled in a really philosophical manner, and we get a nearer approach to a natural system of classification than has yet been made. As an example of Dr. Maudsley's style and method of treat-

ment, we quote the following sentences from this chapter, on the analogy between the functions of the cord and the cerebral hemispheres.

"Bearing in mind that the functions are mental in one case, and in the other motor, the results of degeneration will admit of an unstrained comparison. When the spinal functions suffer, there is first a loss of power of co-ordinating the limbs,—in other words, a certain motor incoherency; when the degeneration has gone still further, there is spasmodic or convulsive muscular action, a condition heralded by twitchings and slight spasms at an earlier stage; last of all, when things have got to the worst, comes paralysis. So with regard to the morbid manifestations of diseased mind: there is first a loss of power of co-ordinating the ideas and feelings, a certain incoherence of mind; at a more advanced stage, there are convulsive mental phenomena, or fixed morbid ideas, comparable to motor spasms or convulsions; and, lastly, there is extinction of mental function in dementia, as there is extinction of motor power in paralysis."

The chapter on Pathology calls attention to most of the facts which have been hitherto made out in this comparatively unworked department of the subject. What the author has to say on Treatment is judicious, and contains also a statement of views of much public interest at the present day, when demands upon asylum accommodation are increasing so rapidly. He argues strongly in favour of the system in vogue in Scotland, of the non-detention in asylums of a large number of chronic maniacs. His views deserve serious consideration.

We have allowed this notice to run to somewhat more than the usual length, because we are fully impressed with the importance of the book; and we feel confident that by its means Dr. Maudsley will establish for himself the reputation of being a thoughtful and accomplished physician, whilst those who read it cannot fail to benefit largely by the well-digested results of his observations and reflections on the nature and treatment of the various diseases included under the head of insanity.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

The Popular Science Review, No. 23, for April, fully supports the high reputation which it has won for itself. It deals always with the newest problems and latest conquests of science; and, but for fear of terrifying general readers, the qualification of "popular" science might be omitted. It deserves, as it seeks, popularity, not from pandering to superficial tastes, but by rendering intelligible, through the pens of the ablest writers, the last words of science in its various departments. The papers in the present number include Recent Discoveries in Insect Embryogeny, by Dr. Fripp, Lecturer on Physiology in the Bristol Medical School. Dr. Fripp, who is a pupil of Kölliker, is thoroughly *au fait* in the latest work of continental observers, of which this is an able *resumé*. Dr. Hooker's paper, on the Struggle for Existence among Plants, is worthy of his reputation; higher praise could not be given. Mr. Barrett, the discoverer of the phenomena Sensitive Flames in this country, contributes an interesting paper on the subject. Dr. Atfield, of the Chemical Laboratory of the Pharmaceutical Society, tells of Paraffin Lamps and their Dangers, a subject of which he is, by his researches, a thorough master. And Mr. Spence Bate, F.R.S., made an able attempt

to Approximate the Date of the Flint Flakes of Devon and Cornwall. The summaries of the Medical Sciences, Microscopy, Zoology, and Comparative Anatomy, etc., by the editor, Dr. Henry Lawson, are very candid and judicious.

The Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867; with Introduction, Notes, Commentary, and Index. By E. Cecil Austin, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. London: Butterworth. In this well timed publication, Mr. Cecil Austin has furnished the Boards of Guardians and other local authorities, and indeed all persons interested in the administration of the Poor-laws in the metropolis, with an excellent edition of Mr. Hardy's Act. Mr. Austin's name is already well known by his useful edition of the Acts for the Superannuation of Poor-law Officers; and his present work will be found equally serviceable to all who have occasion to carry out the provisions of the Metropolitan Poor Act, or are concerned in watching its operation. It pays especial attention to the mode in which the new measure will affect the existing authorities in the metropolis.

Progress of Medical Science.

MEDICINE.

NEURALGIA RELIEVED BY TREPHINING. Dr. J. T. Gilmore, of Mobile, relates this case in the *New Orleans Medical Journal*. The patient was a lady about fifty years of age, with a neuralgia of eight years' standing, occupying the branches of the fifth pair of the right side, and the spinal nerves to a point as far down as the lower angle of the scapula. On the left side, it was confined to the branches of the fifth pair. Her suffering was not continuous, but in paroxysms, recurring every few seconds. Pressure on the branches of the fifth pair of both sides would produce a paroxysm in these nerves. Both temples were considerably puffed, and there was some swelling at the lower angle of the scapula. No cause could be detected, except a fracture of the skull at the junction of the right parietal and frontal bones, received twenty-five years previously, by the kick of a horse, and the repair of which had been left to nature, leaving a marked depression of the skull.

The neuralgia, when it broke out eight years ago, had been preceded by a burning and throbbing sensation at this point. It attacked first the branches of the fifth pair of the right side, subsequently those of the left, and then gradually extended down as low as the point indicated on the right side. On the right clavicle there was an eccentric enlargement, situated about two inches from its sternal articulation, that approached in size a pullet's egg. Appetite and digestion had remained unimpaired.

Looking upon the depression of the skull as the cause of the neuralgia, Dr. Gilmore determined to operate. After the removal of a button about the size of a silver quarter of a dollar, he found that he had gone through nearly an inch in thickness of a bony mass, and around the internal circumference created with the trephine there remained a ridge, that tapered off into the thickness of the healthy skull. There was in fact an internal exostosis.

The neuralgia subsided immediately after the operation, and with the exception of two attacks of cardiac neuralgia, which occurred within a month after the operation, she remained entirely well. The enlargement of the clavicle commenced disappearing after the operation, and there scarcely remains a trace. It resulted, in Dr. Gilmore's opinion, from excessive nutrition produced by neuralgia at that point.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of this day consists of 96 columns, being 32 columns beyond the usual size. This supplement, however, has been furnished each week during the last month, and 12 times since the commencement of the year.

British Medical Journal.

SATURDAY, MAY 11TH, 1867.

THE SCOPE AND PROVISIONS OF THE NEW VACCINATION BILL.

THE Government Bill, for consolidating and amending the statutes relating to Vaccination, which was brought into the House of Commons, and read for the first time, on the 30th ultimo, has not been in the least too soon; for the small-pox, which has been increasing in the metropolis, seems to be also increasing generally throughout the country. The columns of this JOURNAL have, on more than one occasion, been the medium of complaints against the working of the law as it now stands, as well on account of its incompleteness and ineffectiveness as on account of the hardships which it is alleged to inflict upon a large class of public servants who have to carry out the Acts upon this question.

All persons concerned are agreed as to the incompleteness of the existing law, and as to the impossibility of carrying into effect the various provisions of the statutes.

Take, for instance, one provision of the Act of 1853—that which relates to the transmission to the Registrar of Births of the duplicate certificates of successful vaccination, and how that works. The obligation is imposed upon medical practitioners in the fourth section of the Compulsory Vaccination Act, 1853, (16 and 17 Vic., c. 100). But Dr. Seaton, one of the Vaccination Inspectors of the Privy Council when reporting on the Unions which he had inspected in 1864, stated that, "certificates to the registrar had not been sent by thirty contractors, were said to be always sent by a hundred and twelve" but he goes on to say that, "in several of the latter cases, the certificates only reached the registrar at long intervals and very irregularly; and many registrars had had considerable difficulty in obtaining them at all." The total number of the contractors in the area inspected was a hundred and seventy-six.

Again, Dr. Stevens, another Inspector, says, when reporting in the same year on the same subject, that it "is done with very great irregularity, and very commonly not done at all; and, even when the law is literally complied with, the certificates are often valueless." He also found that "false dates or fictitious ages are often inserted." In 1862, his report