

but there are also examples from the practice of Allen Starr, Horsley, Macewen, and Sachs and Gerster. A distinction of some importance is made between cases in which the epilepsy is truly traumatic in origin and in which trephining may be expected to cure, and those in which it may be suspected that the disease was latent and unjustly attributed to the injury, and in which operation will produce no improvement or be followed by death in the *status epilepticus*.

THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE DRUNKARD. By E. D. DALY, Chief Clerk of the Dublin Police Courts. Dublin: Eason and Son. (Demy 8vo, pp. 31. 6d.)

THIS pamphlet is invested with special importance from the judicial experience and legal acumen of the author. The defects of the present legislation are lucidly pointed out, and various amendments are proposed. The most valuable suggestion, from a medical point of view, is that where a court of summary jurisdiction is given (or has) any reason to suspect that any person who, not being amenable to any jurisprudence in lunacy, is notwithstanding by reason of habitual intemperate drinking of intoxicating liquor at times dangerous to himself or others, or at times incapable of managing himself, or his affairs, the court may remand the accused and require the opinion of the prison surgeon. If the medical report show the prisoner to be a diseased inebriate he shall be dealt with specially by law providing for special procedure with such persons. The author justly observes that when anyone becomes a dangerous diseased inebriate relatives ought to have the power to interrupt his insane career.

KLINISCHE UND EXPERIMENTELLE BEITRÄGE ZUR PATHOGENESE DER MERCURIELLEN STOMATITIS UND SALIVATION. [Clinical and Experimental Contributions to the Pathology of Mercurial Stomatitis and Salivation.] Von Dr. ALFRED LANZ. Berlin: Oscar Coblentz. 1897. (Demy 8vo, pp. 176. M. 7.50.)

THIS book is divided into three parts—a critical and historical review of the literature of the subject, a series of clinical observations, and an account of a number of experiments made on animals.

As the result of his investigations the author draws the following amongst other conclusions: (1) That, in accounting for the origin of mercurial stomatitis, three factors must be considered, namely, the mercury, the local cause, and the bacteria. (2) That the ulcers develop chiefly on those parts of the mucous membrane which are exposed to pressure from the teeth, such as the edges and under surface of the tongue, the mucous membrane of the cheeks, and the edge of the gums. But he does not agree with the generally-accepted view of Ricord and Fournier that these ulcers develop on the side of the mouth on which the patient lies in bed. (3) That the ulcers most frequently form in the neighbourhood of the incisor and canine teeth of the lower jaw. (4) That the saliva has no influence whatever upon the origin of the stomatitis, the salivation being due simply to a reflex action starting from the mouth. The salivation never precedes the stomatitis, and is often entirely absent. (5) That the mercurial ulcers of the mouth are the result of a necrosis of the mucous membrane, which is brought about by the disturbance of the nutrition of the tissues, consequent upon the action of the mercury and by the pressure of the teeth on certain portions of the mucous membrane—pressure gangrene.

Notwithstanding that it is somewhat heavy reading, this is an excellent monograph, and a valuable contribution to the literature of mercurial stomatitis.

LES POISONS DE L'ORGANISME: POISONS DES TISSUS. Par A. CHARRIN, Professeur Agrégé. Paris: Masson et Cie, Gauthier Villars et Fils. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 220. Fr. 3.)

TWENTY years ago physiology taught that the glands of the body were for the sole purpose of secreting the fluids which issue from their ducts—the salivary for saliva, the pancreas for its juice, the kidneys for the urine, and the testicles for the sperm; the liver was even at that remote epoch allowed to be exceptional. But the discovery that the ductless gland, such as the thyroid, had an important action on the body, led

to the conclusion that it must give something to the blood, since this was the only channel by which it could communicate with the rest of the system, and the suprarenal capsule was inferred to act in a similar way. The researches of Minkowsky and Lépine upon the pancreas in diabetes gave grounds for thinking that even in glands with ducts the secretion that issued through these was not all that the gland gave to the body, and thus the hypothesis came to be maintained that glands of all sorts had an internal as well as an external secretion.

The brilliant results obtained by grafting thyroid in animals from whom the gland had been removed, and by giving it through the mouth to human patients, led to similar experiments with other glands, in the hope that in cases of disease their defective action might be supplied from without, and this gradually brought about a general study of the effect of extracts from various organs when injected into the blood.

This form of research, which has been carried out chiefly in France, is the subject of Professor CHARRIN's book. Many diseases are, in his opinion, due to "auto-intoxication" from defect or perversion of the internal secretion of such organs, and he mentions briefly the results that have followed injection of blood serum, lymph, extracts of muscle or of nerve tissue, of lung, kidney, suprarenal, testicle—in fact, of almost all the organs of the body, to show that all these contain products which are more or less poisonous, and which might, therefore, produce symptoms of disease. The "auto-intoxications" are characterised, he says, chiefly by nervous phenomena, and injections of these extracts are also followed by affections of that part of the system. It must be confessed that the analogy between the two—the natural and the artificial—does not reach much further than this. The symptoms produced in animals are very few, are difficult to observe exactly, and are reproduced in the same way by substances of very different origin. Lymph and urine, for instance, produce an almost identical sequence of symptoms. There has been too great a readiness to argue from the artificial to the natural, and too great a disposition to lay stress upon superficial resemblance. This does not lessen the probability of "auto-intoxication" as a cause of human disease. The curious melancholy of constipation is at once the commonest and the most striking instance in which physicians have been led to infer the process. Sir Andrew Clark used to believe chlorosis to be due to perverted absorption from the intestines. Uræmia is an instance somewhat, though not wholly, analogous. But what fruit this body of experimental research will bear is another matter which is as yet quite uncertain. Thyroid extract is hitherto the only substance of its kind which has been found practically useful. The pancreatic extract has not helped us with diabetes, nor the suprarenal with Addison's disease; testiculins has almost dropped out of use. But the subject is still in its infancy, and it is, as all young subjects are, full of possibilities.

For those who wish to form a rapid idea of what has already been done, Professor Charrin's book will be of some service; but if a man desires to study any given portion of the subject seriously, he will not derive much help from it, for the book is not a book of reference, though it swarms with names, and it gives a general sketch rather than exact or detailed information.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

Schulgesundheitslehre [School Hygiene]. Von Dr. H. EULENBERG und Dr. THEOD. BACH. 2te. Aufl., 4te. Lief. (Berlin: J. J. Heine. 1897. Roy. 8vo, pp. 321-430.)—The authors—a physician and a headmaster respectively—having in previous numbers treated of the general arrangement and construction of school buildings, etc., proceed in the present one to the questions of waterclosets, water supply, baths, and provision for physical exercise. We note their very proper preference of the pail system in its recent developments and condemnation of cesspits in rural schools, while for those in towns they recommend the latest form of divided troughs for the pupils, and of washdown closets for the teachers. The suggestion to place a block of peat in urinals where the water supply is limited is good. The chapter on water is a

complete monograph on the sources, pollution, and examination, the chemistry, zoology, and bacteriology of water, and that on gymnastics for boys and girls is, as might be expected, thorough. School baths are becoming an institution in German towns, and this section is well worth reading; their remarks on the practice of swimming in the open air and of systematic instruction in outdoor "free" exercises are so too. The authors advocate cursorily the extension of the great English games, which of late have begun to make their way in Germany.

Physiology; Student's Note Book for the Laboratory. Part I. Physiological Chemistry. By ARTHUR J. HALL, B.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., Lecturer on Physiology, Sheffield School of Medicine. (London: Bailliere, Tindall, and Cox. 1897. Post 4to, pp. 48, interleaved 2s. 6d.)—This book possesses at least the merit of accuracy, and will no doubt be used by a student as a reminder of work done in the laboratory before going up for an examination. But, like so many of these little books that are springing up nowadays, it appears to be one of those that are unnecessary. If every student compiled such a note book for himself, then there would be nothing to urge against it. Every second-year's student of average ability ought to be able, with a good textbook and thorough laboratory teaching, to be able to write such a note book. When he has one ready made like this before him, he will in many cases not take the trouble to make another, and so will entirely miss what would otherwise have been useful to himself.

Influence, Intellectual and Moral, Illustrated by the Example of Germany. By RICHARD G. ANDERSON, M.A., M.D., Professor of Natural History, Queen's College, Galway. (Galway: Matthew Clayton, Eyre Square. 1896. Pp. 56. 6d.)—Professor Anderson has expanded a lecture into this interesting pamphlet. He points out that the intellectual predominance which was held by Spain in the sixteenth century, by England in the seventeenth, and by France in the eighteenth, has at the present day become the property of Germany. He attributes this largely to the university system of that country, but still more to the moral influence exerted by the great men who have worked for the good of the nation, both physical and mental. Among these he particularises Frederick William, his son Frederick the Great, Goethe, and William the Great. As a result of this influence, the visionary and the idler have almost been abolished, and the national life of the country is imbued with continuous, systematic, and real work of the perfect kind, that which employs and strengthens both body and mind. Some of the author's arguments are better suited to the platform than the study, but the pamphlet affords ample evidence of wide reading and deep thought. It must, however, be admitted that the typography, particularly as regards proper names, leaves much to be desired.

The Narrative of My Experience as a Volunteer Nurse in the Franco-German War of 1870-1. By ANNE THACKER. With a Sketch of her Life by JAMES M. MENZIES, M.A. (London: Abbot Jones and Co. 1897. Demy 8vo, pp. 92. Illustrated. 3s. 6d.)—The subject of this brief volume is one doubtless that recommends itself to the immediate friends of Miss Thacker, but it is of little interest to the general public, and offers no points for comment as appealing especially to the medical or nursing professions. The self-devotion which prompts women of refinement and culture to spend their lives in the service of the sick or wounded is by no means rare; but the incidents of hardship and fatigue, the inevitable accompaniments of the life, scarcely seem to call for chronicle outside the family circle.

The Use of Hypnotism in Chronic Alcoholism. By C. LLOYD TUCKER, M.D. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 7.)—The author trenchantly declares that the pretence put forth by the purveyors of quack remedies to cure 90 or 95 per cent. of cases shows gross dishonesty on their part, and extreme ignorance and credulity on the part of the public. As regards hypnotism in this class of diseases, we are glad to observe a more modest estimate of the alleged success of hypnotic suggestion as a therapeutic agent than the writer says he formed when he began this treatment.

Handbuch der Laryngologie und Rhinologie. Edited by Dr. PAUL HEYMANN. Parts V to XIII. (Vienna: Alfred Holder. 1896.)—The rapid issue of the parts of this interesting work continues. Of those above mentioned, Parts v, vi, ix, and xi belong to Volume III (Diseases of the Nose), Parts vii and viii to Volume II (Diseases of the Pharynx), and the remaining three to Volume I (Diseases of the Larynx and Trachea). The nasal subjects dealt with include articles on the histology of the nose and its accessory cavities (Schiefferdecker); physiology of the same (Gaule); the examination of the same (Gustav Spiess); *post-mortem* examination of the same (Hansemann); general symptomatology of nasal diseases (Bloch); suppuration and ulceration in the nose (Hajek); general therapeutics of nasal diseases (Bloch); acute rhinitis (Gerber); chronic rhinitis, simple and hypertrophic (Klemperer); atrophic rhinitis, foetid and non-foetid (Krieg); diseases of the nasal septum (Lange). In Volume II Bloch writes on the general symptomatology and on the general treatment of pharyngeal diseases, Kronenberg on acute inflammations of the pharynx and naso-pharynx, Hoppe-Seyler on diphtheritic pharyngitis, and Chiari gives the first instalment of a long article on chronic inflammation of the pharynx and naso-pharynx. The contributions to Volume I comprise the conclusion of Richard Ewald's article on the physiology of the larynx and trachea; a highly-practical article by B. Fraenkel on the methods of examination of the larynx and trachea; *post-mortem* examination of the same by Hansemann; the general etiology and general symptomatology of diseases of the larynx and trachea, both by P. Schech; the general therapeutics of these regions by Carl Stoerk; inflammation of the mucous membrane of the larynx and trachea, by Krieg; ulcerations of the same by Otto Seifert, and acute submucous laryngitis and laryngeal perichondritis by M. Hajek. The last fasciculus (Part XIII) contains four plates of chromolithographs illustrating the text. The instalments before us fully maintain the high standard of this exhaustive system of laryngology and rhinology.

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS

IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

ESSENCE OF COFFEE.

This is a concentrated essence of coffee prepared by a patented process, and is guaranteed to be the pure product of the finest selected coffee berries. Examination of the sample sent to us showed it to be a concentrated extract of pure coffee. When used in the proportion directed, of one teaspoonful to a cup, it made a very palatable cup of coffee. The extract is also prepared with definite proportions of chicory to suit the taste of those persons accustomed to a combination of chicory and coffee. It is described as Dr. Dabbs's *P.B.* Essence of Coffee, and can be obtained from Messrs. Peek Bros., French and Co., 20, Eastcheap, and from Messrs. Deeks, Shanklin, I. of W.

ASBESTOS PISTONS.

MESSRS. ARNOLD AND SONS (West Smithfield) write: In reply to "W. D. D.'s" question in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of March 27th, in which he asks if the use of asbestos for pistons of exploring and hypodermic syringes is an advance on the ordinary leather ones, etc., we introduced asbestos plungers, in accordance with the suggestion of Dr. Bokenham; and we likewise patented an arrangement which is very simple for either compressing and thus expanding laterally the plunger by two flanges, which are tightened or released by simply turning the nut or handle. The asbestos plungers are most durable, and, when worn out, can at once be replaced by others; this refers to a hypodermic syringe. We likewise made, at the suggestion of Mr. Thomas Smith, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, an exploring syringe fitted with asbestos plunger, and acting the same way as the hypodermic. Both of these syringes have been a very great success, and the hypodermic syringe is now the only pattern which is made by us for Her Majesty's navy.

PRESENTATION.—The members of the St. John Ambulance Class at Howell's School for Girls, Llandaff, have presented Dr. Fred Evans of Cardiff with Dr. Nansen's new work, *Farthest North*.