

Dr. Gould has been accused of "gross exaggeration" in his statements regarding the possible evil consequences of over-working an inefficient eye. An unprejudiced review of his writings, as far as the writer can make it, does not substantiate the charge. I can produce from my personal case records duplicates for nearly every case he has cited, and I have no doubt most oculists can do the same. That epilepsy is occasionally induced by eye-strain, the latter acting as the exciting factor, in persons having the necessary predisposition to that disease, is beyond question; that apparently grave cases of gastric disease, and more of nervous and mental break-downs, are cured or relieved by the use of glasses to correct errors of refraction, is the common experience of oculists; that many remote reflexes, such as tinnitus aurium, choreic movements, etc., may disappear only after the employment of correcting glasses, is a well-known fact.

The profession should not grumble if Dr. Gould uses a bludgeon to awaken them to their responsibilities. Easier methods have been tried and failed. He has compelled them to listen, and hopes to make some of them adopt the teachings which have for a quarter of a century fallen upon their deaf ears. Mitchell, Thomson, Risley, Savage, and others have said the same things before, but too small a percentage of their audience have appreciated the importance of their work. Dr. Gould has made some original observations, and to that extent enriched our knowledge of the subject, but his main object and chief result have been to make the profession realize the true value of the normal eye and the great importance of relieving the abnormal eye from strain and the effects thereof.

In his effort to impress the lesson, he has employed strong and virile language, but, surely that is no cause for serious criticism. If a man has a message to convey and delivers it, of what consequence is it to consider the wrapping of the package or the address of the carrier? The profession is concerned only with the truth or falsity of the message; in this instance, the reviewer believes, the message is not only true, but an exceedingly important one. That this matter is not a "fad" and can no longer be treated as such is shown by the quotations given in Chapter I (Vol. IV), from leaders of the profession, not ophthalmologists, like Musser, Solis Cohen, Walton, and others.

This whole series of Biographic Clinics will prove profitable reading to any practicing physician.

H. O. R.

*Eighth Annual Report of the State Board of Insanity of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Year Ending November 30, 1906.*  
(Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1907.)

This report is quite up to the standard set by former issues, both in text and general arrangement and in mechanical details.

A number of questions are discussed which are of interest to all caring for the insane, as well as to those having the same charge in Massachusetts. An eight hour law has recently become operative in this State and by "broadest construction" is applied only to those employed outside of the hospital wards. In the opinion of the Board this

is a hardship to the nurses and attendants and it is recommended that steps be taken by the various hospital authorities to reduce the working hours for this class of employees. In a number of cases this has already been done. The wages paid to employees is believed to be too low and to be a cause for the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory nurses and attendants. At the same time it is stated that the living conditions, especially of this class, has been improved in recent years, though much remains to be done. Provision for married employees is advocated on plans similar to those advocated by the Scottish Commission, to which reference has been made in this journal (Vol. LXII, p. 172). With these changes it is believed that positions will be more permanently filled and the average rotation will be decreased. As illustrated by a table on page 37 the average rotation for men on ward service is 3.7; for women 2.5, and 2.6 for the whole service. This same table gives the figures for all the State hospitals and the highest is seen to be the male attendants at Worcester Insane Asylum, which is 6.4, that is, 216 men during 14 months served the places of 34 attendants, or an average term of service of about 67 days, which would seem too brief to acquire skill in caring for insane patients.

For the first time in many years there is no overcrowding of institutions as a whole, the accommodations having kept advance of the increase in number. The total number of insane under supervision is 10,371, an increase over the previous year of 219. The total number of all classes under supervision is 12,388, an increase of 274 over the previous year.

As usual the report is illustrated by a number of statistical tables.

W. R. D.

*Éléments du médecine mentale appliqués à l'étude du Droit.* Cours professé à la Faculté de Droit en 1905. Par le DOCTEUR LEGRAIN. Preface de M. GARÇON. (Paris: Arthur Rousseau, 1906.)

In 1887 Dr. Dubuisson, physician at the Asile Ste-Anne, introduced the study of mental medicine at the Faculté de Droit in Paris. The present volume is a course of fourteen lectures delivered at the school following the leadership of the founder. Dr. Legrain reviews the elements of mental medicine and discusses the important problems which arise in legal medicine.

The first lesson is a criticism of the various schools of criminal law, and he urges the bringing together of the studies of legal medicine and pathological psychology. The criminal should be studied, his character, hereditary influences and environment should be taken into consideration when judging him.

The constitution of the personality, the factors composing it, is studied, and the author shows how it is composed of sensory perceptions, how these are associated, synthetized and form ideas, how the relative activity of the mental representations is connected with the normal or to the dream state. Then he shows how these sensations can cause conscious or unconscious hallucinations, which are sometimes imperative and cause criminal acts.