

world weariness without homesickness. Suicide in the army is dealt with exhaustively.

Alcohol is an important factor in the production of insanities found in soldiers and this subject is dealt with at some length. Post-epileptic conditions are also treated quite fully. Moral imbecility is frequently seen and it is usually difficult to differentiate a moral imbecile from a true criminal. Dementia praecox is fairly frequent and is discussed thoroughly.

The book is well worth perusal and is written in such a way as to be interesting to medical men who are not specialists in psychiatry.

W. R. D.

*Die Anwendung von Beruhigungsmitteln bei Geisteskranken.* VON PROF. DR. H. PFISTER, I. Assistenten der psychiatrischen Klinik in Freiburg. (Halle, 1903, Carl Marhold.)

This pamphlet of 39 pages belongs to the well-known series on nervous and mental diseases intended for the general physician, and edited by Dr. A. Hoche. It is a great pity that there is not a similar series in English. These pamphlets, giving as they do an epitome of the most modern views of special diseases in a cheap, convenient form, are of great value. In the present number Dr. Pfister deals with the therapeutic measures necessary for the treatment of cases of insanity in general practice, and deals with the subject in a simple yet comprehensive manner. He divides his subject into two parts, the first, on causal therapeutics, which is dealt with briefly, and the second, on symptomatic therapeutics, which is treated of at much greater length. In the latter the author discusses the methods and contraindications for forced feeding, the diet, baths, electro- and thermo-therapy and gives rules for the use of sedatives and hypnotics. Finally, he discusses psychic treatment. The book is an excellent one.

W. R. D.

*The Internal Secretions and the Principles of Medicine.* By CHARLES E. DE M. SAJOUS, M. D. (Vol. I, Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Co., Publishers, 1903.)

While only ten years ago our knowledge of the so-called ductless glands had scarcely passed beyond the stage of a general appreciation of their relationship to certain gross manifestations of disease, much valuable work has since been accomplished in the attempt to gain an insight into their physiological function. We recall the epoch making researches of Baumann, Roos and Oswald on the thyroid, the painstaking investigations of v. Fürth, Abel, and Takamine on the adrenals, the studies of the pituitary body by de Cyon, etc. As matters stand the subject is a most fascinating one and it was to be expected that sooner or later a speculative attempt would be made to explain some of the most vital phenomena with which the physiologist has to deal on the basis of an inter-relationship between one or more of the ductless glands and the various organs

of the body at large. Such an attempt Sajous has made and the voluminous work before us is the outcome. In going through its pages we are struck at once with the extensive reading and steadfastness of purpose of the author. From all possible domains of the natural sciences and the most varied sources of literature observations have been culled and reprinted in extenso, which may have a bearing on the subject under consideration and tend to support Sajous' views.

Interesting as the reading is we cannot help but feel, however, that the undertaking has been premature. The attempt is brilliant, typical of the French scholar; but the basis of the structure lacks stability and we fear also that the underlying idea is not sufficiently broad. Sajous gives prominence almost exclusively to the adrenal glands, while the question of the internal secretion of other organs receives comparatively little attention. To criticise the work step by step would be impossible in this place. The work is not the outcome of personal experimental research, but represents a series of deductions based upon the work and conclusions of others, which in turn are very often open to criticism. To repeat once more, the attempt is brilliant but the facts do not warrant the conclusions.

C. E. S.

*Les Obsessions et la Psychasthenie II. Fragments des leçons cliniques du mardi sur les états neurasthéniques, les abouliques, les sentiments d'incomplétude, les agitations et les angoisses diffuses, les algies, les phobies, les délires du contact, les tics, les manies mentales, les folies du doute, les idées obsédantes, les impulsions, leur pathogénie et leur traitement.* Par. PROF. F. RAYMOND ET PIERRE JANET. (Paris, 1903, Felix Olcan.)

This is the second number on the same subject by Dr. Janet and comprises the fourth series of reports from the psychological laboratory of la Salpêtrière. It contains over 500 pages, and it consists largely of reports of cases, but these are accompanied by sufficient comment to amplify symptoms so that a clear clinical picture is presented to the reader. The work is written with the idea that a study of the cases will be of value to the psychologist as well as to the physician. It is a valuable and extremely interesting work and we know of no more careful study of neurasthenic conditions. The book is divided into two parts, the first, on lowerings of the mental plane, containing chapters on the physio-psychologic insufficiencies, feelings of incompleteness, psychasthenia and epilepsy, agitations, phobias, tics, and mental agitations. These chapters are further subdivided into sections and in all 146 cases are discussed in the first part. Part two is given over to a consideration of obsessions, and contains chapters on hypochondriacal ideas, obsessions of shame, obsessions of crime, obsessions of sacrilege and "accidents vesaniques." Ninety cases are considered in this part. A very excellent index adds to the value of the book. To those interested in the study of nervous or mental diseases we would recommend a perusal of this work.

W. R. D.