declared was not seclusion, "they only reported seclusion when the shutter of the window was closed as well as the door." It is hardly necessary to say the Commissioners did not agree with this definition. In one institution besides seclusions "12 persons had been wet-packed for surgical reasons and excitement and restlessness." Wet and dry packing and the shower bath, all seem to be resorted to on occasion in several of the institutions.

The Commissioners report 337 cases of the use of the shower bath in one institution with 689 patients.* Of another institution the Commissioners say:

"The question of having unlocked doors in the asylum appears to have been under discussion here. Where so many lunatics, a large percentage being suicidal or dangerous to others, are congregated, we can not approve of a project which appears to be attended by so much risk without corresponding advantage."

Chimerical experiments of this kind seem to find no favor with the Commissioners.

Topische Diagnose der Gehirnkrankheiten, eine klinische Studie,
VON HERMAN NOTHNAGEL. Berlin: 1879. Hirschwald.—(Topical Diagnosis of Diseases of the Brain).

The work before us is an attempt to erect, upon the basis of clinical experience and *post mortem* appearances, the symptomatology of localized foci in the cerebrum. The author, for this purpose, has carefully sifted the material bearing upon this subject, which has been published in medical literature. He excludes from consideration all that is found defective, either in the clinical history or in the autopsy, or in which the clearness of the picture drawn by the observer, appeared impaired by additional vague speculations. It is the author's aim

* This sounds strange when we remember the *Lancet's* violent denunciations of the "hideous torture" by the shower bath in American Asylums.

to bring face to face, without further comment, the observation at the bed-side and the autopsy, and he purposely abstains from all physiological interpretation of the facts observed, even where the circumstances would almost seem to demand the drawing of conclusions.

The cases which are prominently the object of discussion, are: foci from hæmorrhages, from emboli, from thromboses, and exclusively those in which the affection was:

1. Of a chronic, stationary character.
2. Wholly limited and circumscribed.
3. Of no influence upon the parts surrounding the lesion, neither by pressure, nor by the production of circulatory disturbances or of inflammatory processes.

The author wishes to have excluded from consideration, the "recent" cases, on account of the mixed character of the symptoms, which they at all times present in the beginning. He determines a period of at least from six to eight weeks after the attack as the time when the parts indirectly affected by the lesion, can be considered as restored to their normal condition. He accepts further, in the main, Hughlings Jackson's division into *destroying lesions* and *discharging lesions*, of which the latter are especially characterized by symptoms of irritation and convulsions, which, when distinctly confined to certain groups of muscles, may likewise be useful for a local diagnosis. These cases, however frequently connected with the occurrence of tumors in the encephalon, are like the latter, in general, designated as the most liable to give rise to errors in diagnosis. Other forms of cerebral diseases which may occasionally be found to some degree circumscribed, especially the sclerotic and atrophic processes, do not come into consideration, as they are affections generally of a progressive character. Whether progressive bul-

bar paralysis belongs here or not, is a question which the author leaves undecided.

The work itself is divided into two parts: I. Special Symptomatology. II. Review of the Focus Symptoms.

In the first, by far the larger half of the book (534 of the 613 pages of the whole), Dr. Nothnagel gives, in detail, the symptomatology of the following parts of the encephalon: Cerebellum; crura cerebelli; pons Varolii; medulla oblongata; pedunculi cerebri; corpora quadrigemina; thalami optici; corpora striata; centrum ovale; cortex cerebri; cornu ammonis; claustrum; capsula externa; ventricles; basis cranii; glandula pituitaria; aneurism of the basilar artery.

Under each head we find, first a description of cases, arranged into groups, viz: recent hæmorrhages; stationary hæmorrhagic foci and abscesses; tumors; they are all accompanied by critical remarks. Secondly, an analysis of the observed facts, and thirdly, a summary under the title of diagnostic principles. An abstract of any value, of this part of the book, can not be given, as it will become a standard work for every one interested in the subject, and for all future investigations. Even the diagnostic principles, appended to each chapter, can not rightly be apprehended apart from a close study of the author's analysis of the symptoms. As the general result, however, it is to be stated that no single characteristic symptom for any special lesion of any special part can, at present, be given. The only trustworthy guide in this obscure field of medical diagnosis, in a given case, is the coincidence of certain marked symptoms, or of peculiar groups of symptoms. Yet, even then the local diagnosis is made with the greater difficulty, the higher in order the parts are which are supposed to be affected.

In regard to those morbid phenomena which would be of the greatest interest to most of our readers, the psychical or intellectual disturbances, the book is silent throughout. No evidence whatever has, as yet, been brought forward, which would justify *even the supposition of a special localization of these*. There is nothing more known with any degree of positiveness, than that they are associated with affections of the grey cortical substance of the cerebrum. Lesions of certain circumscribed districts of the grey cortex either do not give rise to any noticeable symptoms, or they produce, like the diffuse affections of the brain and its meninges, disturbances more or less marked in the *whole intellectual sphere*. These statements are, of course, not surprising to those who have made a special study of mental diseases and its pathology; yet, the fact is worth mentioning, in view of the vague position taken by some writers on this subject, in this country.

In the second part of the work, "Review of the Focus Symptoms," Dr. Nothnagel arranges into groups, in a demonstrative manner, the signification which the individual phenomena have for a local diagnosis. In the introduction, he directs attention to the great influence upon the diagnosis of cerebral diseases, which was brought about by Griesinger's division of the lesions into local and diffuse affections.

The local lesions or foci produce phenomena in a three-fold way—

1. In consequence of the destruction of a circumscribed part of the brain, there will be a complete arrest of the functions of this part; or, in the words of Goltz: foci of defect create symptoms of defect. Since the signification of many districts in the brain is not known, it is clear that the symptoms of defect of a great number of foci are not recognizable. They remain latent,

as is the technical term. However, where there are distinct phenomena of defect, they of course form the most important and reliable element in the local diagnosis. It is evident that these, physiologically, must present themselves as paralyses of the different functions.

2. Yet, not every paralysis is dependent, directly, upon the destruction of a distinct district. If there is, for instance, a recent hæmorrhagic focus, the blood-coagula may, possibly, act upon neighboring districts by pressure, by an impairment of the circulation or, in another unknown manner, arrest the function and thus give rise to symptoms similar to those of defect, of larger extension, which can be designated as phenomena of inhibition. If the patients keep alive long enough, the symptoms will gradually disappear in proportion to the absorption of the exudation, and finally, only those remain which directly depend upon the defect in the substance of the brain.

3. A local focus may, under certain circumstances, produce a local irritation and thus raise symptoms which, in a physiological sense, must be designated as phenomena of irritation. The diagnostic value of these also, as it will be admitted, is rather doubtful, since we have no means to determine the extension of the irritating effect.

Now, from these three points of view, the author discusses disturbances in the motory and in the sensory sphere; disturbances of vision, of hearing, of smell, of taste; disturbances of the muscular sense and of the reflex actions; changes in the electric excitability; vaso-motor and trophic disorders; disturbances of speech; disorders in the digestive apparatus and in the urinary system; headache and vertigo; disturbances of the sensorium.

From this part of the work, there can also no abstract of any value be given, and we refer, for all particulars, to the study of the original, which should have a place in every medical library. Appended to the text, the reader will find valuable information as to the literature of the subject, comprising references to five hundred and sixty books, pamphlets and articles.

Handbuch der Geisteskrankheiten.—(*Handbook of Mental Diseases.*) By Dr. HEINR. SCHUELE. Leipzig: 1881. F. C. W. Vogel.

Scarcely two years have gone by since the publication of the sixteenth volume of the German edition of Ziemssen's Cyclopædia of Medicine, containing Schüle's Manual of Mental Diseases, and, some months ago, we had the pleasure of receiving, from the author personally, a copy of the second edition of his elaborate work. It is not merely a reprint of the former, but in many important particulars a *revised* edition. The high value of the book, as we have announced already in a former review, is to be sought for not only in the completeness of the material worked up and in the true scientific spirit with which the material is arranged, but in the originality of the work as the result of the author's personal studies and his own experience in his capacity as one of the chief physicians to a prominent and admirably conducted institution for the care of the insane. The changes made in the present edition are characteristic of the same thoughtfulness of the distinguished author, which prevails throughout the book, and of his earnest efforts to clear the way for the solution of difficult problems as well as for the better understanding of conditions obscure and not easily accessible in their nature. We find examples of this in the revised chapter on catalepsy; in the chapter on hallucinations and their theory; in the chapter on insanity from affec-