

to the road already travelled, and applaud the excellence of our predecessors. The world moves, it must move. We have something to do in this matter ourselves, a duty to perform. Everything can be made more perfect ; and however obscure each one of us, we must all work earnestly at a task at once difficult yet full of consolation ; the progressive, constant amelioration of the condition of the insane."

#### EPILEPTIC ARITHOMANIA.

(Ibid.) Under this title, Dr. A. Cullere, records several cases of epileptics who have a mania for counting, for combining numbers of all kinds, particularly calculations in regard to divisions of time, such as seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years, and centuries. In one instance, a young man of twenty-seven, and a victim of epilepsy, cried out suddenly to the doctor, in the midst of an attack of acute mania, in which he imagined himself surrounded by brigands and assassins: "Shall I tell you how many minutes there are in one hundred thousand years?" This was an evidence of a temporary return to his abnormal normality, to the individual inherent departure from normal mentality that constituted his natural state. Professional mathematicians and some few children are the only persons who find real pleasure in arithmetical calculation. Possibly the epileptic arithomaniacs resemble such children. With the unfortunates under consideration, this mania for calculations differs materially from similar mania in those of inherited mental instability. The latter are pained and fatigued by arithmetical calculation even to the point of anguish, and of well-defined melancholia. Not so the epileptic. Calculation is an amusement. Even fractions are a source of pleasure. The mysticism of epileptics, their irascibility, their changeable moods, expansive religiousness, sexual aberrations, and alcoholic excesses, are due to inherent mental qualities, as is arithomania, and not to any special hereditary unsoundness of mind.

#### POST-FEBRILE INSANITY.

In the Johns Hopkins Hospital Reports, No. 1, Vol. ii., seven cases of post-febrile insanity are cited. The prognosis is always good, recovery usually taking place within three months. The patient should be cared for at home whenever possible. Seclusion, incessant watchfulness, absolute rest in bed, with massage and careful feeding, constitute the essentials in treatment.