Book Reviews

THE MENTAL STATE OF HYSTERICALS. A Study of Mental Stigmata and Mental Accidents. By PIERE JANET, Litt. D., M.D., Professor of Philosophy at the Collège Rollin. Translated by CAROLINE ROLLIN CORSON. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London.

Mrs. Corson has performed a signal act of merit in giving to the medical public this excellent treatise of Janet. It has been known for many years by the French-reading physician, and its temperate and judicial handling of an extremely intricate problem has commended it to the respect and admiration of all.

Hysteria here is viewed as a generalized neurosis which affects the entire organization of the individual. It disturbs the physiological functions and thus gives rise to the many and varying somatic features of the malady; it disturbs the psychological functions and presents a protean group of mental symptoms.

The author would divide the study of hysteria into the consideration of two main groups. These he indicates in the first place as the more organic features of the disease, the *Mental Stigmata*; and secondly, as the *Mental Accidents* of the malady. Under the heading of mental stigmata are grouped, Anesthesias, Amnesias, Abulias, Motor Disturbances and Modifications of Character; while grouped as mental accidents are the phenomena of Suggestion and Subconscious Acts, Fixed Ideas, Attacks, Somnambulism and Delirium. A concluding chapter on Hysteria from a Psychological Point of View sums up in very short compass some of the most suggestive features of this intricate disease.

The translator has had singular facility, we believe, in catching the idea of the author and in presenting in excellent English a noteworthy contribution to psychological medicine.

JELLIFFE.

DEMENTIA PRECOCE. Per DOTT LORENZO MANDALARI. A Tocca. Napoli.

Precocious dementia in its various varieties is in need of systematic and comprehensive revision. The present contribution aims solely to add to the facts which are slowly accumulating; it does not seek to generalize. It consists of a clear-cut series of clinical pictures.

JELLIFFE.

STUDII CLINICI ED ANATOMO-PATOLOGICI SULL'IDIOZIA. Per DOTTOR G. B. PELLIZZI, medico ordinaria a nel R. Manicomio, Docente di Psichiatria nell'università di Torino. Fratelli Bocco. Torino.

The author presents here three studies of idiocy. Idiocy and tuberculous sclerosis; a classification of idiocy and epilepsy.

In the first study after an extended historical summary of the subject, brief histories of three patients are given followed by full discussion of the clinical and pathological features, thus making a monographic treatment of this rare development of sclerosis.

In the second study on the classification of idiocy, Bourneville, Hammarbergs and Kaes are carefully studied and compared. The author makes the following group.

Class I. Idiocy of pure defect of development of the cerebrum, or idiocy of endogenous causation; here are classed (1) microcephalus.