Obituary

ERNEST DUPRÉ

The sudden death of Professor Ernest Dupré in September, 1921, removed one of the most active and original workers of the present day in French psychiatry. Although he had suffered from a prolonged illness he was able to participate in his former inspiring manner in the recent Reunion of the Neurological Society at Paris in June and Congress of Alienists and Neurologists at Luxembourg, in August. He was born at Marseilles in 1862 where his father was professor at the Lyceum. He received his education in Paris where the foundation was laid for his later exact and original work. He was well trained to pursue his work into the various channels into which his interest flowed as well as to exercise that perfect literary expression which characterized his published results.

His early career in medicine was distinguished by studies in biliary infections, in work on the parotid gland and the throat which already gave him a reputation for careful and original work. His early work in neurology was directed to a study of the meninges and was followed by research in practically every field of the subject. He felt however that all such work found its consummation in psychiatry. For he laid emphasis upon the somatic and psychic unity of the organism. He therefore firmly based his psychiatric conceptions upon the exact observation of facts anatomical as well as clinical which he collected widely with care. At the same time he perceived the affective basis of psychic disturbances believing that the imagination and the emotion were responsible for the pathological condition. His interest extended itself not only to the investigation of various syndromes manifesting these disturbances but it led him on into the fields of criminology and of sociology all as part of the broader psychology to which his studies belonged. He looked upon the study of the individual, whether as a pathological subject or otherwise, as only the beginning of a larger social psychology which should be the concern of all branches of social science. He presented his point of view in a most stimulating fashion as president of the Congress of Strasbourg in 1920 where he discussed the question of the interrelation of the mental disturbances and the en-

PARIS NEUROLOGICAL REUNION, JUNE 3, 1921. Dr. Ernest Dupré, third from left hand, front row.

vironment. He admitted the value of Freud's theories for certain isolated situations but in general rejected them because he believed them not sufficiently based upon fact.

Dupré has made many specific contributions in various psychiatric fields. A large volume embracing an enormous amount of research in the interrelation of psychiatric syndromes and anatomical lesions was published in the "*Traité des maladies mentales*" of Gilbert Ballet under the title of "*Psychopathies Organiques*." Other similar studies pertain to paresis, psycho-polyneuritis and presbyophrenia. His work on the relation of mental disability and lack of motor equilibrium includes a valuable study of the relation of psychomotor development and mental anomalies in the child.

Dupré's investigation of what he termed "mythomanie" led him to a conception of the hysterical state which is largely in accord with that of Babinski. Dupré has given special attention to the deliria of imagination, both those which are chronic and systematized and those which are acute and transient. He describes "puerilism" as a syndrome occurring in various mental disorders as either constitutional, transient or progressive. He has isolated in his study other syndromes which occur on an emotional basis. He has attempted also to separate out some of the syndromes of hysteria and of neurasthenia and has isolated a syndrome which he names an emotional psychoneurosis.

His untiring activity has resulted in works upon various subjects of psychiatric and psychological interest as well as in important contributions to medico-legal affairs. His work, original and creative as was its nature, was always founded upon observation itself rather than devoted to theory. As a teacher he embraced his subjects in a broad manner awakening the interest of his students and winning their affectionate coöperation. In his career as professor he brought his school to a position as a psychiatric center whose force was felt throughout France. He received various appointments to positions of honor and influence. He became associate professor in 1898, hospital physician and expert for the Paris Courts in 1899. His medico legal clinics at the Prefecture of the police were most fascinating for Dupré had a very brilliant style in his extemporaneous clinical expositions. Chief physician of the special Infirmary in the Prefect of Police in 1913. At the death of Ballet he was made professor of the clinic of mental diseases in 1917 and organized the service at St. Anne made memorable through the work of Magnan. The war made it impossible to get his service

into as satisfactory running order as he would have liked, but in the present year his laboratories under Pinel's guidance were beginning to take up the broken path of research. In 1918 he was made a member of the Academy of Medicine.

The present writer remembers him as a most charming host, a polished and courteous gentleman, and a student of psychiatry who was always receptive to new ideas and ready to discuss them which he accomplished in a free and singularly felicitous manner. French psychiatry has lost a singularly cultivated and charming representative.

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