

cases. The term "meanness" is not used in the sense of any definition to be found in Webster; he explains that it "is intended to be applied to those individuals who hate almost every one around them, and who persist in displaying it in the form of meanness" [p. 256.] "Pure cussedness" would, in our opinion, have been more precise and equally classical. As the author says, the "type" has been considered from the psychological rather than the physical side. In view of the importance attached by Lombroso and his school to anomalies of physical structure in the genesis of crime, it would seem not amiss for the author to have briefly noted the presence or absence of such stigmata. He gives, it is true, the measurements of his subjects but it would require a pretty laborious comparison to extract from them a part of the information that might be given, much more intelligibly to the ordinary reader, in a few sentences, or by means of photographs. The method, which would seem to have been thoroughly carried out, was, after selecting the most typical cases of a class of criminals, to obtain all the information possible from the prisoner, records, the various prison officials who had been in contact with the prisoner and the personal statements, written and oral, of the criminal. It may be noted, that the one case of "pure murder" had never committed, nor, so far as appeared, attempted homicide. He was a juvenile offender, committed on account of an aggravated and unprovoked assault. Although it seems clear enough that he would be likely to commit murder with little or no provocation, we think it might not have been impossible to find an equally typical case in which the murder was not merely potential. With this exception, if any further evidence is wanting, that the system at present almost universally in vogue in civilized countries, of inflicting determinate penalties for specified crimes, and then letting the criminal go, on the supposition that society has "got even with him," to run up another score, is as senseless as can well be devised, whether respect be had to the reformation of the criminal or the security of the community. With the author's practical conclusions as to the proper treatment of criminals we are in complete accord.

The bibliography furnished at the end of the book will be useful to the student of the subject. How complete it is, we are unable to say, but it is certainly ample enough for a beginning.

*Lectures on Mental Diseases.* Designed Especially for Medical Students and General Practitioners. By HENRY PUTNAM STEARNS, A.M., M.D., Physician Superintendent of the Hartford Retreat; Lecturer on Mental Diseases in Yale University, &c.

This work comprises twenty-nine lectures prepared as a basis for instruction in mental diseases to the medical students of Yale University. It is therefore intended as a primary text-book or compendium of mental medicine, though this term hardly conveys an adequate idea of its scope and purpose. It is probably better described as a practical treatise on mental diseases covering the ground that is demanded for the needs of the general medical practitioner. As such it has a useful function and appeals to a more extended class of readers, to whom it can be of perhaps greater practical value than would be a more elaborate treatise, covering the

whole territory of psychiatry fully and completely. The requirements of such a work as the present one as to the treatment of its subject are, however, not less imperative, and we do not see from our examination that Dr. Stearns has, in any important particular, failed in the task. He has produced a volume that is clear in statement and practical in the full sense of the word; the result of long observation and experience with the subjects of which it treats.

As is often the case, the first lecture is of the nature of an introduction. In it the author gives some leading facts of the anatomy and physiology of the brain and nervous system and some general statements of physiological psychology, such as may serve the purpose of preparing the ground for the subsequent descriptions of the real facts of insanity. Next he takes up "the elements of insanity" defining and describing hallucinations, illusions, imperative conceptions, or concepts as he terms them, insistent ideas and delusions. By insistent ideas he understands a more elaborated or complex condition of the simpler conception, and follows Dr. Edward Cowles in preferring this name to the more generally utilized one of "fixed idea". All these are illustrated by actual cases in such a way as to amply support the definition, and afford a clear conception to even the most inexperienced in this class of subjects. In the chapter on classification, which follows, Dr. Stearns adopts for the most part an etiological classification, while still, of course, retaining the main symptomatic forms of mania, melancholia, &c. Any classification must necessarily be only an arrangement for convenience in systematizing the knowledge we possess, and can in no case represent more than a very remote approximation to the absolute relations. It is none the less a convenience, however, and a chapter given to it is appropriate in any systematic work on insanity. The objections of the author to the designation *paranoia* which lead him to substitute for it the circumlocutory term "delusional insanity," seem a little strained. While *paranoia* in the Greek means simply madness or insanity, it may without any great impropriety have a more special signification in English or in the universal language of science, and it has this in its favor that it is applied to that special form of mental disorder that is characterized by the symptom which has been considered by the popular and also by the legal mind as the essential indication of insanity. Its shortness and convenience alone will probably be enough to give it a permanent standing in the nomenclature.

Besides the five primary forms of insanity mania, melancholia, delusional insanity, circular insanity, and dementia, the following mainly etiological species are described in detail: the insanities of adolescence, the climacteric, and old age; puerperal and ovarian insanity, and the insanity of masturbation; alcoholic, syphilitic, epileptic, and hysterical insanities; general paresis, insanity of organic brain disease, acute delirium; phthisical, rheumatic, and post-febrile insanities. These while not covering all possible forms, still comprise nearly all cases that are likely to come before the general practitioner for diagnosis or treatment. The descriptions given and the illustrative cases are throughout good, and the author's views are, as might be expected, judicious and sound. In only one or two points do they seem to call for any special comment. As regards the etiology of paresis, Dr. Stearns

holds that a pre-existing diathesis must exist back of all exciting causes,—the congenital congestive tendency that has been made so much of by some of the French authorities. Syphilis he has himself found in only a very small proportion. It seems to us probable that, as investigations are carried on in the near future, this factor will come to be considered the essential one and that the so-called tendency to congestive conditions will be left altogether in the background.

In puerperal insanity, while the possibility of infection is not ignored, due stress is hardly laid upon it as a cause. There are a few other unimportant points in regard to which there might be difference of opinion with the author, but it would be of no particular advantage to state them here, and they do not impair the value of the work. It is what it attempts to be, a student's and practitioner's manual, supplying the information needed by non-specialists in psychiatry, and also a work that may well be added to the library of any working alienist. The author's style is good, and, from the numerous illustrative histories, it is very interesting reading. It can be recommended unreservedly to the class of readers for whom it is intended.

The usefulness of the work is enhanced by an appendix containing abstracts of the laws regarding insanity in all the States and Territories of the Union, which seems to be fully up to the latest legislation in every section.

H. M. B.

*A Treatise on Nervous and Mental Diseases, for Students and Practitioners of Medicine.* By LONDON CARTER GRAY, M.D., with one hundred and sixty-eight illustrations. Philadelphia: Lea Bros. & Co., 1893.

This volume is stated by the author in his preface to include the results of his labors in the selection and clinical verification of facts during the past seven years, in all of which he has been well known as an active and leading specialist in the department of neurological medicine. This alone is a recommendation of the work, since it could hardly fail under such circumstances to contain very much that is of practical value. In the present case we have a book that will be welcomed by the many who desire a modern text-book on nervous diseases that is comprehensive and practical, and especially full in the details of the treatment of these affections that are so often matters of perplexity to the general practitioner. It will be found, on this account, to meet the wants of a large number perhaps better than would another equally meritorious text-book less full in this regard.

The first chapter, as is usual in works of this kind, is devoted to a general description of the architecture and mechanism of the nervous system. This is not as extended as is sometimes the case with other works of this kind, but it is probably sufficiently detailed to meet the needs of the readers, and the explanations are very clear and intelligible. Dr. Gray has probably met the difficulties in this regard better than he could well have done in a more lengthy and elaborate description. He calls attention also, and it is worthy of note here, that all the figures, excepting those obviously schematic, or those credited to other authorities, are drawn from nature and represent the actual conditions observed in examinations. The advantages of this plan,