

sodium from the diet in conjunction with bromide treatment (Toulouse and Richet) would have been desirable. There is a useful chapter on Insanity and Physical Disease. Defective mental development is considered under the usual headings. Ireland's term, "genetous idiocy," is employed to designate a class. Surely the bulk of idiocy is "genetous" and the expression connotes nothing whereby a class is distinguishable. How can this expression adequately demarcate "a class of congenital idiot which does not rightly fall under any other division"? Discussing "moral insanity" the author gives classes of individuals in whom the moral sense may be affected; he thinks the term, if used at all, should apply to his class (*b*), "some children otherwise apparently normal." Why not also to class (*c*), "some men of genius"? Useful chapters follow on Feigned Insanity and the Relationship of Insanity with Law. Referring to medical certificates the author asks whether it is possible that the ready granting of such in doubtful cases of illness has led the lawyer to distrust in some instances the value of the evidence of medical men. In his gentle method of reproof the author displays a charming courtesy. Under Treatment we find a reference to the need for the prevention of the propagation of insanity. As regards "correction" of the insane (a term the author evidently prefers to "punishment"), it is represented that luxuries and pleasures can be stopped with benefit "apart from any desire to punish." The patient will probably judge from the action; for him there will not be much difference between correction and punishment. The book contains 22 excellent plates, mostly illustrative of the morbid histology of the cortex cerebri in mental disorders.

Notwithstanding that this work appears to lend itself in places to criticisms of the kind made above we believe that, as a whole, it is well adapted to the requirements of the class for which it is primarily intended. Avoiding, as far as possible, vagueness and theorising the book conveys practical information in a clear and an easy style and is characterised by good, sound sense.

New Methods of Treatment. By Dr. LAUMONIER. Translated and edited from the second revised and enlarged French edition by H. W. SYERS, M.A., M.D. Cantab., Physician to Out-patients, Great Northern Central Hospital. London: Constable and Co. 1904. Pp. 321. Price 3s. 6d. net.

THERE are three prefaces to this book—one by the translator; one by the author, dated October, 1902; and a third also by the author, or perhaps it would be more correct to say an extract from a preface to the second edition, dated October, 1903. In one of these there is a sad picture of the plight of the medical practitioner who has scant leisure to read and his patient "who is often better acquainted with the latest fashion in therapeutics than is frequently supposed." The author's aim has been to supply "definite and complete information" concerning the new drugs and methods of treatment the worth of which has been established and which are sufficiently well known to be described in a "definite and practical manner." The translator is not so sanguine about the permanent value of the observations contained in this book since he states that it must include an account of a considerable number of methods which in the near future will be more or less likely to be replaced and superseded by others.

The subjects cover a wide range, including not only nutrition and blood alterants, respiratory, renal, and vaso-motor alterants, but also the curious group described under the heading of "Opotherapy." Sero-therapy, nerve alterants, antipyretics, and antiseptics are also dealt with. The different sections are very unequal. The section on the vaso-motor alterants seems unduly brief and that on

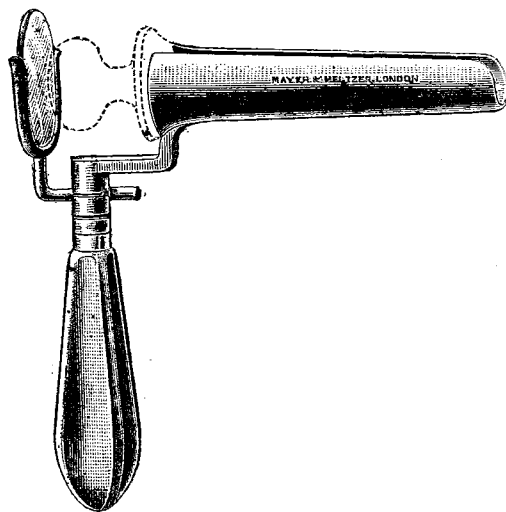
opotherapy unduly long. With regard to the administration of opotherapeutic agents we are told that the method of ingestion by the mouth is by far the best (p. 197), but the enumeration of the different organs employed would act as a deterrent from general acceptance of this principle. There is much that is of interest concerning glycerophosphates, dionin, heroin, and some of the newer antipyretics, but many drugs of recent introduction are not included.

The translator states that he has endeavoured to bring the text into line with the English style and methods. French is so generally read with facility that the task appears to have been unnecessary. Many sentences in the English version are obscure and in the desire to ascertain the meaning the reader is under a constant temptation to try to translate back into French.

New Inventions.

NEW IMPROVED RECTAL SPECULUM WITH MAGNIFYING LENS ATTACHED.

ALL who have had much special practice in rectal surgery know too well how difficult it is in many cases to explore and to ascertain accurately the appearances *in situ* of growths, ulceration, &c., and to observe the normal and abnormal mucous surface of the rectum some inches up from the anal orifice. After careful exploration with the finger one would always like to have an ocular inspection of the cause of pain such as is produced by ulceration, hæmorrhage, abnormal growths, piles, or polypi in this region, and for such a purpose I have had an improved rectal speculum constructed which is easy of introduction with a split or space at the side



and open at each end, provided with a wooden plug, and having at its lower end a convenient handle to hold it by. Attached to the outer opening of the speculum is a metallic half-circular rim for the purpose of receiving a powerful magnifying glass lens which can be moved in any direction but can at the same time, if necessary, be permanently fixed by screwing the handle up tight so as to grip the metallic bar which holds the lens. This speculum and lens I have been using for the last few months and it admirably carries out the object in view. It largely magnifies and thus enables the surgeon to see plainly the exact condition of the mucous surface of the lower rectum. I have to thank Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer, 71, Great Portland-street, London, W., for the satisfactory manner in which they have carried out my ideas in its construction.

The plate which illustrates this description accurately depicts the speculum in question. To throw light into the speculum when introduced into the rectum a small electric light can be used with great advantage.

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