

emphasized the relationships of the latter form to katatonia. It is the merit of Kraepelin to have cemented the group of dementia præcox, not on a basis of delusions nor of motor symptoms, nor of clinical course, but on a basis of prognosis,—the outcome in mental weakness.

Arndt discusses various subsidiary theories. Cramer's as to muscle-hallucinations, Freusberg's concerning the cerebral mechanism of katatonia, etc. Altogether in this "History of Katatonia," Arndt has performed a great and needed service to all who are interested in modern psychiatry.

PICKETT (Philadelphia).

*Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde und Psychiatric.*

(1902. May.)

1. The Disposition of Insane Criminals. GUSTAVE ASCHAFFENBURG.
2. Podagra and Neuroses. P. J. KOWALEWSKY.

1. *The Criminal Insane.*—No part of the care of the insane, says Aschaffenburg, presents so many difficulties as that which relates to the disposition of insane criminals. In the asylum now being built in Baden, a pavilion has been set apart for 20 to 25 men of this class. The first observation-section of the kind was established in Prussia; and other asylums followed in rapid succession at Breslau, Köln, Münster, Halle and Graudenz. None of these accommodated more than from 40 to 50 patients. Special asylums for the criminal insane have existed in other countries for a long time, Italy having three of them. It is an embarrassing question whether in such an institution cases shall be placed in which insanity has come on after a long criminal career, or only such as have come in conflict with the laws in the course of an acute attack of insanity. For the latter class the brand of "criminal insanity" seems unnecessarily odious, especially when placed upon the hitherto harmless parietic.

Among 27 insane patients who had committed grave crimes, only 4 had been criminals before the onset of their insanity; and anyhow, the problems connected with the management of the criminal in an asylum rest upon the nature of the insanity, and not so much upon the individual's criminal record. Aschaffenburg thinks that it is best to keep the criminal insane in the general asylums, where, in connection with the universities, a study of criminal psychology promises most to medicine and to law.

2. *Podagra and Neuroses.*—After giving the views of various authors on the subject of the relationship of the uric-acid diathesis to migraine and to epilepsy, Kowalewsky cites several cases, in one of which migraine and epilepsy seemed to replace one another as equivalents. In each of these two neuroses the uric-acid diathesis serves as an exciting cause, though in neither can podagra alone account for the attacks; there is always a basis of hereditary predisposition in the victim of epilepsy or migraine. In senile epilepsy sclerosis of vessels and of nerve-tissue is the cause of the attacks, it is true, but podagra underlies these organic changes.

PICKETT (Philadelphia).

*Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria.*

(1902. Vol. 28, Fascicle 1.)

This entire volume is given up to the proceedings of the Eleventh Congress of the Italian Society of Alienists, which took place during September, 1901. Abstracts of the proceedings are given. Many of the original articles have appeared elsewhere, and of these a number have been abstracted in the JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE.