Book Reviews


This little volume is one of the series of the Library of Contemporaneous Philosophy and consists of a course of lectures given by Dr. Sollier in the new University of Brussels during the year 1904-1905. He gave a continuation of a set given four years earlier, on the general problem of memory.

Sollier elaborates this study of association, carrying out the integral relations of this process with that of memory, associations being the most important factors in the mechanism of memory.

In a purely monistic and schematic manner he presents the various hypotheses concerning the laws of association, but has very evidently neglected entirely the work of those students of psychiatry who have been assiduously gathering objective facts concerning the character of the types of association. Viewed from this viewpoint the work is superficial and academic, although a very simple and pleasing setting forth of the general problems of association.

Howard.

Klinische Beiträge zur Lehre von den Degenerationspsychosen. Saml. Zwang., Abh. VII. Von Professor Dr. K. Bonhoeffer, Breslau, Carl Marhold, Halle. 1.60.

On a basis of the Breslau material Bonhoeffer contributes a highly interesting short study of the type of individuals made classical by the work of Magnan and his students. The author considers more particularly three class of psychoses which are apt to occur in those types. The first includes the simple paranoid forms occurring in degenerates. The attacks are acute or subacute with comparative clearness of thought and orientation and manifest themselves mostly by ideas of reference and delusional ideas of interpretation. Auditory hallucinations may accompany the attacks which may persist for a few months or a couple of years. Insight is gradually established and the patient gradually rights himself with no modification of his personality. These "Erethristic debilities," as the author terms them, are allied with the the episodics in the fields of hysteria and epilepsy.

A second group is made in which there is a permanent character anlage of the paranoid coloring. These individuals have "the tendency to a dysharmony in the dynamics of their ideas," in the sense that certain ideational combinations are accompanied by a permanently increased affect influence so that opposite and regulatory influences do not have their accustomed influence. In these patients the "überwerthigen" ideas of Wernicke show to best advantage and are the progenitors, as it were, of the delusional interpretations. Anxious depressions, anxious dreams, hallucinations occur in the clinical picture. In some instances these patients approach very close to many of the litigious paranoiacs.

The third group is characterized by the great lability of the conscious-
ness of personality which has many relationships to hysteria. These individuals under the influence of prison life develop in a manner much more rapidly than do the true paranoids, a subacute, paranoidic modification of the personality in the direction of an elevation of the sense of self-importance. Delusional interpretations are absent from the picture. Ideas of reference are not usual but fabrication and pathological lying is very characteristic. A tendency to turbulence and fractiousness under discipline is present and simulation is very frequent. A sharp distinction between delusion and phantasy lying is often difficult to draw, but the latter is the common type here. Recovery may take place with insight even after the condition has persisted for several years.

The paper is one of much value to students of medico-legal science, especially in criminological fields.

JELLIFFE.

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL. Contributions from the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Boston City Hospital, the Long Island Hospital, and the Neurological Laboratory. Vol. II. Boston, Mass., U. S. A., 1907.

The original publications of the Department of Neurology of the Harvard Medical School, for the year 1906, are collected in this volume, in accordance with the plan outlined in the first issue of the series. Nine papers are included, all of which had been previously published, chiefly in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. The chief contributors are Putnam, Taylor and Waterman; others are Knapp, Walton, Brewster, Linenthal and Lindström. Interesting articles on psycho-therapeutics, with illustrative cases, and on brain tumors, multiple sclerosis, and neuro-surgical cases, are to be found; also suggestions as to treatment of exophthalmic goitre, tabes, etc. All are carefully written and form together a volume reflecting credit on the department. Most of the articles have been previously "abstracted" for this journal.

ATWOOD (New York).

IBSEN'S NORA VOR DEM STRAFFRICHTER UND PSYCHIATER. Von Staatsanwalt Dr. Erich Wulffen in Dresden. Carl Marhold, Halle.

The literature bearing on the psychological side of Ibsen's work grows apace, and in Wulffen's analysis we have one of the most extended concerning a single character that has been offered. To be appreciated it must be read, and no review can hope to present its chief features nor to criticize to advantage the positions maintained.

The criminalistic side is well considered from the standpoint of German jurisprudence; it is perhaps a slight caption to ask that this standpoint would better have been that of the Skandinavian laws, but as there is little question that the law-breaking is solely a setting, the exact significance of the deed from a legal point of view is of secondary interest.

From the psychiatric side Wulffen considers Nora a true hysteria. She has the heredity, shows to him great emotional instability, is morally anesthetic concerning her crime, flirts and coquettes with Dr. Rank, does not really love her husband, and does not care for her children. This is a short résumé of the author's position.

It is significant that the very dense and stupid Helmar, for certainly Ibsen has made him a prototype of the unutterably stupid and unseeing type of man, should have practically the same idea of Nora that Wulffen adopts, and if one reads carefully the author's argumentation it is as cer-