

Book Reviews

Bulletin of Iowa Institutions (under the Board of Control). Published quarterly. Vol. IV. (1902. Herald Printing Co., Dubuque, Iowa.)

The Bulletin of which the one before us is the annual volume is the practical outcome of the meetings of the officers of all the Iowa institutions which are under the so-called Board of Control. As the institutions are not identical in scope or purpose, the papers which are presented at the public meetings and the consequent discussions are often of little service to those who are charged with the administration of institutions for the insane. It is noticeable, however, that the conduct of such institutions and the problems involved in provision for the insane are prominent topics at each meeting and that all institutions profit by the presence of experienced alienists and hospital administrators. In examining the papers published, one indeed is struck with the fact that institutions for the insane seem to have established a standard of care for the defective classes in all the institutions of Iowa. When the Board of Control was first suggested a fear was expressed on the part of those who were especially interested in the care of the insane that hospitals for the insane might be placed upon substantially the same footing as correctional or reformatory institutions, as they were equally under this board. It is gratifying to observe that the Board of Control has exercised a wise discretion in this matter and that the statistics of institutions of a simpler grade, with less complexity of organization, have not been used to revise those of hospitals for the insane. This is as it should be. The expenses of the maintenance, medical care and treatment of an institution for insane persons in an acute stage of their disease cannot be brought into equitable comparison with those of a house of correction or penitentiary where the inmates are able-bodied adults capable of regular labor.

In the present volume many of the papers are interesting and valuable to all institution workers and the discussions are often forceful and instructive. The Bulletin is creditable to the State and to the officers of her public institutions alike.

Organic Diseases of the Nervous System. By M. Allen Starr, M. D., Ph. D., L.L. D. Illustrated with 275 engravings in the text and 26 plates in colors and monochrome. (Lea Brothers and Company, New York and Philadelphia, 1903).

The extensive clinical experience of the author of this book entitles him to speak with certainty on the many doubtful questions engaging

the attention of neurologists. The book is not only marked by the many personal observations of the writer but by admirably conservative recommendations in regard to prognosis and treatment.

In the introductory chapter the neurone theory is well discussed in its various relations and the objections to its acceptance are stated. This is followed by an extensive discussion of the injuries of nerves and the various forms of neuritis. This chapter is full and deserves special commendation. The chapter on the regional diagnosis of the diseases of the spinal cord is full and is illustrated by many original diagrams of the various tracts which are worthy of careful study. Progressive muscular atrophy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis are treated as separate diseases. A separate chapter is devoted to primary lateral sclerosis, though the author recognizes the rarity of this affection as a primary disease.

In the chapter on the diagnosis and localization of cerebral diseases no mention is made of the work of Farrar and others on the histology of the motor cortex nor the recent work of Sherrington and Grünbaum on the motor cortex in the higher apes. In dealing with the question of the localization of the sensory cortical centers while coming to no definite conclusions the author seems to incline to the view of a separate sensory cortex, citing cases which seem to support this theory.

The illustrations are excellent and from the fact that many of them represent actual cases deserve more than passing notice. Many are original and these, especially, show careful selection in the subjects portrayed. Much more might be said would space permit.

The chapter on brain tumors with the exception of a few very minor details (such as the use of the term gliosarcoma) is admirable. Knowing Dr. Starr's extensive study of brain tumors one is disappointed in the fact that he cannot give a more hopeful prognosis.

Syphilis is dealt with in a short chapter in which attention is called to the fact that the symptoms are the same as those resulting from other causes producing the same lesions.

The book is in every way an excellent one and can be recommended to all who desire a knowledge of the present status of the organic diseases of the nervous system.

R. M. V.

Why the Mind has a Body. By C. A. STRONG, Professor of Psychology in Columbia University. (New York: The Macmillan Co.; London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1903.)

This interesting title suggests a metaphysical problem of the first importance—that of the general nature of objectivity—but this problem itself is really not touched upon at all in the body of the work. The problem is rather that of the relation between mind and body—how it is possible that there should be any even apparent connection between them at all, and the nature of this connection. The discussion covers the ground of the late Professor Clifford's essays on "Body and Mind," and "On the