

Dr Hare remarks that insanity, in distinction from idiocy and imbecility, rarely complicates epilepsy, and then gives some statistics tending to show that this relation is not so rare. Apparently his explanation is that if we except the cases of dementia paralytica, insanity is rarely complicated with epilepsy. We believe that, quite apart from general paralysis, mental derangements, often amounting to legal insanity, frequently accompany epilepsy. Of epileptic idiocy or imbecility Dr Hare has little to say.

It is interesting to compare Dr Hare's recommendations for the treatment of epilepsy with those of Dr Féré. Both, of course, lay great stress upon the bromides, and both point out the damage sometimes done by saturating the system with these salts. After the bromides other drugs do not get much credit. Hare has little faith in the oxide of zinc, which Féré thinks may sometimes be usefully taken in conjunction with the bromides. In like manner digitalis and belladonna are also recommended by both writers, to assist the action of the bromides. Belladonna has, no doubt, had an extensive trial, owing to the great authority of Trousseau. In our experience we can recall no instance where it has done good, and we have seen it do harm—in epileptic insanity increasing the excitement and hallucinations. Nitrate of silver is now a mere curiosity. We think what credit Hare gives to nitrite of amyl to be scarcely deserved, and that Féré has shown more judgment in his distrust of that drug. Gowers and Folsom claim to have had considerable success with borax, but this was not confirmed by Féré's experiments. Hare is very hopeful of antifebrin in the treatment of epilepsy. It seems to deserve a trial.

The Convulsions of the Brain: A Study in Comparative Anatomy.
Being an Address delivered in the Anatomical Section of the Tenth International Medical Congress in Berlin, 5th August 1890. By Sir WM. TURNER, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh. Edinburgh: Williams & Norgate: 1890.

NEARLY thirty years ago, Sir William (then Mr) Turner became known as an authority on the cerebral convulsions, and the work he published in 1866, entitled *Convulsions of Human Cerebrum Topographically Considered*, was the first serious attempt made in this country to demonstrate their position and relations. Since then, numerous papers on the convulsions of man and various animals have appeared from his pen, and the special invitation he received to deliver an address on this subject at the Berlin Congress last year was a just recognition of his position as one of the leading exponents of this department of cerebral anatomy.

Sir William Turner follows Broca in recognising a primary division of the surface of the cerebral hemisphere into two parts, a basal region or rhinencephalon, and a superior portion or pallium.

Broca classified the mammalia into two groups,—osmatic animals, which possess a well-developed rhinencephalon with a keen sense of smell; and anosmatic animals, in which the rhinencephalon and olfactory sense are either feeble or not developed at all. Sir William Turner adopts a more logical division arranging them in three groups, which he terms macrosmatic, microsomatic, and anosmatic.

This address contains a masterly review of the condition of the rhinencephalon and pallium in the various orders of mammals. It is illustrated by a large number of woodcuts prepared from original drawings of actual dissections. It would be out of place in this Journal to discuss the numerous points of interest raised in this address, but those interested in the subject will find it well worthy of careful perusal.

Manual of Surgical Anatomy. By A. W. HUGHES, M.B., C.M., F.R.C.S.E., Lecturer on Anatomy, School of Medicine, Edinburgh. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone: 1890.

THIS little manual contains an excellent summary of the principal anatomical facts that are of special surgical importance, or in the words of the author—"That which has found its way into this book comprises what in the struggle for existence has appeared worthy to survive as fittest."

Dr Hughes evidently possesses the faculty of condensing a large amount of information into a small space in a clear and methodical manner.

The student will find it a very reliable guide, although there are a few points to which we must take exception,—thus, the roof of the external auditory meatus is said to be separated by a thin plate of bone from the middle fossa of the base of the skull, so that suppuration in the meatus may cause meningitis. A similar statement is made in Treves' and other works on Surgical Anatomy, but it is certainly incorrect, the roof of the meatus being formed by two distinct plates of compact bone separated by a fair amount of cancellous tissue. Again, it is said that, "Just above and behind the tonsil lies the opening of the Eustachian tube." We fear that this is likely to mislead the student, and to cause him to overlook the fact that one is above and the other below the level of the soft palate.

The nasal cavities and the external and middle portions of the ear are described, also the eyelids and lachrymal apparatus, but there is no reference to the surgical relations of the eyeball and its muscles. The work contains a number of excellent illustrations, which will greatly assist the student in learning the relative positions of various structures which he would encounter in the ligature of the principal arteries.