

which contains perhaps 30 per cent. of CO, has a disastrous tendency to leak through tubes, earth, and even brickwork, with often fatal results. In mines the fire-damp, CH₄, and the black or choke-damp are in themselves chiefly harmful through the absence of oxygen; but explosions, fires, and blasting produce after-damp and white or sweet-damp, containing large quantities of the deadly carbon monoxide. It is curious that there should have been so much discussion as to whether this gas is poisonous in itself or merely from its excluding oxygen, for there can be little doubt of its intrinsic harmfulness when we consider its peculiar effect on respiration, so different from that of CO₂ and similar bodies, and the hemorrhages it causes in the brain and cord. The author describes at length the remarkable group of symptoms to which it gives rise, especially the sudden loss of muscular power, the heart failure, the neuritis, the bulbar and other nervous affections. Beside the central paralyses there are frequently peripheral ones, which are rarely symmetrical and most often right-sided. Trophic and vaso-motor changes may occur without loss of motor power and sensation, or *vice versa*. As to treatment, we are warned of the necessity of forbidding exertion and maintaining body warmth, of keeping up artificial respiration for long periods, and of administering oxygen by a mask under some pressure. In a few cases venesection may be useful, as well as saline injections and transfusions.

A very full abstract is given of Mott's invaluable paper on "The Pathology of CO Poisoning," and a bibliography extending over eleven pages.

The arrangement of the material is perhaps hardly as clear as might be wished, but the wealth of detail collected from English and foreign sources is so great that one cannot be surprised. The book is of great value not only on its scientific side, but also for sanitary work and in connection with compensation cases.

A Text-Book of Insanity and other Mental Disorders. By CHARLES ARTHUR MERCIER, M.D. Second Edition. Pp. viii. 348. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 1914.

If Dr. Mercier is critical of the work of others, he is punctilious in the preparation of his own; accordingly, he is careful to prewise the purposes and limitations of this book, so that within these only is criticism appropriate. It is set out for the student and practitioner (and fulfils this intent far better than

most manuals so prefaced), but it is also designed to profit the alienist, whom one might suppose from sundry observations is still rather benighted amongst the mists of a vague psychology. We consider this book quite an ideal one for the student, and a valuable one for the alienist. There has been a long series of text-books issued on insanity, some excellent in their kind, some redeemed by individual researches, others which in the words of scripture had better have never been born. Those issued specially for the student, according to the scheme of the publisher, have mostly been treated in stereotyped manner; for this examiners have been largely responsible. Each succeeding work seeks to cover a larger ground; there is necessarily inadequate, and in relation to the beginner, unprofitable, summary of anatomy, physiology, pathology, experimental and other psychology. Most of this, as Dr. Mercier indicates, is superfluous under the circumstances. He has therefore discarded the majority of these encumbrances, and has adopted and elaborated a scheme of which the germ is to be found in the older treatises, that is the constitution of mind in its various faculties; an eminently practical mode of regard. These faculties have, however, for the first time been sifted, grouped, and stratified in their order of evolution, and the result is a singularly clear exposition of normal mind which the student can at once grasp, and of whose parts the relationships can be estimated. This plan having been established, disordered states can be arranged in an equally lucid manner; and here one may comment on the ingenious way in which the clinical aspect of insanity has been treated *pari passu* with morbid psychology, so that its general features are elucidated before a single chapter has been devoted to any form or kind of mental disorder. The section on "Classification" is beyond mere theoretical importance, dealing as it does with the distinctions between primary and derived insanity, which must be seized in forming estimate of any case.

Pathology is not treated to any extent. This we think is wise. The description of the morbid anatomy of general paralysis is, however, excellent. Other sections of the book deal with lunacy law and criminal responsibility.

Dr. Mercier's definition of paranoia appears to correspond to hallucinatory delirium so-called, whilst the ordinary significance, we believe, answers to the "délire d'interprétation." To this latter Mercier's delirium of exaltation or abasement seemingly corresponds. This is the second edition, and should be by no means the last. Let us, in conclusion, express our gratitude to Dr. Mercier that he has excluded that veritable "King Charles's head" of modern text-books, dementia precox, as also manic-depressive insanity!