

it by *post mortem* examination of child after death?
Will some one please answer in next LANCET?

Yours respectfully,

L. J. MOTHERSILL.

Tuscarora, April 28, 1885.

Books and Pamphlets.

INSANITY AND ALLIED NEUROSES; PRACTICAL AND CLINICAL, by George H. Savage, M.D., M.R., C.P. Physician and Superintendent of Bethlehem Royal Hospital, &c. Published by Henry Lea's Son & Co., Philadelphia.

The American reproducers of this work have probably long ago learned the fact that a large book is, in the eye of the student of any branch of medicine, a large evil. They have therefore contrived to squeeze into this unpretending little octavo, on fine paper and in clear type, a quantity of most instructive solid matter, which might not inexcusably have been made to fill one of twice the size. Never has it been our good fortune to rise from the perusal of any work on insanity with more thorough gratification than we have realized throughout all its pages. It was our intention to present to the readers of the LANCET some extracts from which they might be enabled to form an anticipative opinion of the real merits of the book; and with this view we made notings of such passages as appeared to us most saliently instructive, but before we had got over half the pages, these markings had become so numerous that we have reluctantly felt constrained to relinquish our purpose.

The book is presented as a "Manual for Practitioners and Students." Every practitioner of medicine is, or ought to be, a student of insanity; therefore it would not have at all derogated from the dignity of the former to have passed them over unnamed. It is sincerely to be hoped that those of ripe knowledge and prolonged observance will not allow themselves to be distanced in the field of alienism by their juniors. A little money devoted to the purchase, and a very little daily time to the study of Dr Savage's plain and modest treatise, will not fail to prove profitable investments. But whatever may be the appreciation in which it may be held by the general profession, it is sure to be highly valued by the entire body of

alienistic and neuropathic specialists. Every man who has had any lengthened experience in psychiatry, and has loved his work, will feel, in reading Dr. Savage's graphic and succinct description of cases, as if he had been erewhile walking arm in arm with the author, for years, through the wards of his own asylum; and the retired veteran will have displayed before him a living panorama of mental scenes and shadings, which must revive his remembrance of many anxious and many pleasant days in his past life,—scenes and shadings which lapse of years may have begun to enshroud in the gloom of clouded remembrance, but whose reproduction he will contemplate with a kindred gratification to that of the tired pilgrim on his return to his youthful home.

We cannot but commend Dr. Savage's book to every member of the medical profession, and to every student who aspires to the possession of a sound practical knowledge of mental disorders. It is quite probable that if more attention were given to this department of medical science, the public would be relieved from witnessing many of those scenes of professional conflict in courts of law, which are the opprobria of our profession.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY FOR MAY, 1885.
New York: D. Appleton & Co. Fifty cents a number, \$5 a year.

The first paper, "Our Recent Debts to Vivisection," by William W. Keen, M. D., is a graphic account of the benefits that have been conferred upon humanity during the last quarter of a century, by means of experiments on animals. There is no strained construction in the argument, and the numerous examples given cannot easily be explained away. Dr. Max von Pettenkofer's valuable and timely papers on "Cholera" end in this number, with the fourth of the series, which is mainly devoted to the subject of prevention. "A Scientific View of the Coal Question," by G. Gore; and "Training in Ethical Science," by Mr. H. H. Curtis, are able articles. "The Nervous System and Consciousness," by Professor W. R. Benedict, illustrated, and "Arctic Exploration and its Object," by Dr. Franz Boas, are both good papers in their respective departments. There is also an article by Professor Tyndall, describing the patient labor, the ingenious methods, and the grand results of "Pasteur's Researches in Germ-Life."