

that at present its occupants consist almost entirely of aged women and patients suffering from nervous and mental diseases.

The buildings are irregular in form and cover with the grounds in connection an area of about 80 acres.

The wards as in many of the older hospitals in Europe are very irregular in form and size, but as a rule the light and ventilation are fairly good. There are in connection with the hospital more than 5000 persons. The number of beds is 3864, and of these 2865 are for aged women, the remainder being devoted to mental and nervous cases.

A large Electrical service which is attended by patients from all the hospitals of Paris is thoroughly fitted up. The number who are treated often exceeds 300 each day. Dr. Vigouroux who is in charge of it has invented an apparatus for measuring the electromotor force. He finds that in Basedow's disease there is a marked diminution of electrical resistance (about $\frac{1}{4}$). As this is found in the earliest stages and is pathognomonic in pure cases, its value, from a diagnostic point of view, in undeveloped cases, is often great. Static electricity is employed here with excellent results in cases of lowered nutrition, such as neurasthenia.

The Bath service is excellent and contains conveniences for baths of all sorts, plunge, douche, vapour, sudation, etc.

In the Photography service is to be found all the necessary appliances for the practice of the art.

The Museum, though not large contains many interesting specimens of all kinds, a portion of which consists of mouldings of rare cases made in the service of the hospital devoted to this purpose.

As to the physicians, the present generation are by no means the only ones whose names are known to medicine. Here it was in the beginning of this century that Pinel introduced his humane reform in the treatment of the insane, which has borne such bountiful fruits. In this he was ably followed by his disciple Esquirol, whose work was in turn supported and enlarged by such widely known men as J. P. Falret, Baillarger, and Felix Voisin. Foremost among the physicians of to-day stands Professor Charcot, on whom his 64 years of life sits lightly, notwithstanding the vast amount of original work done in the past 28 years which he has devoted to the service of the hospital. His

writings both on general medicine and the nervous system are too numerous and too well known to need comment. The number of beds in Dr. Charcot's wards is 212, of which 160 are reserved for affections of the nervous system.

The amphitheatre in which he delivers his weekly lectures will seat about 400 and it is often crowded by doctors from every quarter of the globe. Of course any number of interesting cases are presented at his clinics, and the experiments which he has here lately made in hypnotism have been very interesting. Among others let me mention a case of "Cedème Bleu" occurring in the hand of a hysterical girl of 20. Within ten minutes after being hypnotized, the œdema had entirely disappeared, the contracture given place to perfect mobility, the skin had returned to its normal color, and during a certain time the patient recovered complete use of the hand. He also produced in the hand of another hysterical girl by means of hypnotism an affection which was precisely the counterpart of that above mentioned. This of course he could make disappear permanently without any difficulty.

Perhaps one of the most marked effects of hypnotism is seen in hysterical joint affections, in which often after months of treatment in surgical wards the patient is *permanently* cured in five or six sittings.

Dr. Joffroy, whose researches, alone or in collaboration with Drs. Charcot or Duchenne, in pachymeningitis, infantile paralysis, neuritis, progressive bulbar paralysis, chorea, *myélite cavitaire* (syringomyelia), etc., have made widely known, has 250 beds, of which the larger number are reserved for nervous patients. In his wards are many rare cases. Among others was one of Morvan's disease, which has recently died from lung complications. The autopsy which Dr. Joffroy has just made shows the typical lesion of syringomyelia in the cervical cord, a most interesting addition to the much discussed pathology of this disease.

Dr. Falret, following in the footsteps of his father, has written on insanity and asylums, the soundness of which is well demonstrated by a visit to his private asylum at Vanves.

I much regret that lack of space forbids me to mention others whose labors have contributed to the brilliancy of the school of the Salpêtrière of to-day, or to speak of the consultation service where large numbers of nervous and mental cases are treated daily. I am, etc.,

D. CAMPBELL MEYERS.

Paris, June 26th, 1890.