

it is immersed in commercial alcohol for not less than ten or twelve days. As it sinks here it must be turned often to avoid deformity by pressure on the bottom of the vessel, and it is well to renew the spirit two or three times, the oftener the sooner the process is required to be finished. Let the organ now be immersed in commercial glycerine, at first it floats, but gradually becomes heavier as the alcohol evaporates; when level with the fluid it is to be taken out. Now set it aside for several days till the surface is dry, then cover with gum elastic varnish.

To the above process we would make the following suggestions:

(A mixture of damar and copal varnish will do better, we think. A brain prepared as above will make a beautiful preparation for studying the cortical substance, but as most of the lesions are in the anterior ovule it is advisable to make sections as advised by Pitres in his "Lesions du Centre Ovule," and referred to with illustrations in Ferrier's "Localization of Cerebral Disease." The sections can be very readily made after the brain has been a few days in the chloride of zinc solution, before transferring it to the alcohol. After the sections are made, leave them in the chloride of zinc for three or four days, then proceed as described above.)

REVIEW.

On the Construction, Organization and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane, with some Remarks on Insanity and its Treatment. By THOMAS S. KIRKBRIDE, M.D., LL.D., &c. page 320. J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co., Philadelphia and 16 Southampton street, Covent Garden, London; Montreal, Dawson Bros.

This book is nothing more nor less than what its title implies, and our author has given us a most valuable work, one no doubt which will prove to be of the greatest possible advantage to any community about to establish an insane asylum. The plan of choosing a proper place for such a building, the amount of land that should surround the building or buildings, the plan of the building or buildings, the manner of choosing a governing board, what the medical superintendent, and all the officers and employees of the establishment should be, are matters all gone into with the most minute details, and although these are subjects that have been written upon over and over again, yet our author shows himself to

be no apprentice hand at the work he has undertaken, but a man of master mind; a mind well stored with knowledge from observation, and wishes to impart his knowledge to others.

We said the book would be found useful to those about to establish an insane asylum, we may add that it will be found useful, even to those who have already established asylums, for it affords many practical hints that can be taken advantage of by medical superintendents.

Unfortunately, from the peculiar system of farming out patients to contractors, adopted in the Province of Quebec, a system probably our author never heard of, his book is useless in this Province, for it speaks to those who have no existence amongst us, a medical superintendent having entire power and control of the whole establishment and all that is therein, he being responsible for all his acts to the executive, either directly or indirectly. We doubt if our author ever heard of such an anomaly as of a religious community of ladies being contractors with a Government for the insane of a country at so much per capitum for pauper patients, said ladies being sole proprietors of the insane asylum, appointing one of themselves as Superior and Superintendent of the establishment, who in turn appoints her own attendant physician, that is responsible to her and her only for all his acts and deeds, and so does she appoint all keepers, and discharge them at her pleasure. That these pauper patients are treated in every respect as seems best to this Lady Superior and her own medical attendant, not responsible nor letting any one know what the treatment consists of. True, that the Government has a most reliable, capable and experienced alienist as Government visiting physician to this establishment, who performs his duty to the public fearlessly and honestly, guided in all his acts by benevolence and justice. But what are his powers? To recommend the admission of those whom he considers suitable persons for admission under the law, to recommend to the Government the discharge of those patients whom he, in his judgment, considers should be discharged, to report from time to time the mental and physical state of the patients, to report as to their comfort, that is their clothing, bedding, lodging, &c., and, if he sees anything that he disapproves of in a sanitary point of view, such as heating, ventilation, drainage, &c., to report the same,—so far so good, but he controls nothing.