

of the diseased mind, not being understood, were looked upon as supernatural and were consequently avoided, and tales of the bizarre conduct of one so afflicted were told to frighten the children, just as stories of ghosts, goblins, etc., are implements of offence in the hands of those in charge of the youthful, in many parts, in this enlightened twentieth century.

Despite the handicaps thus imposed, many excellent observations were recorded, even at the time when witches were being sent to the stake, and one may be pardoned for quoting the author of the "Religio Medici" in regard to his views on the subject of witches. He says: "For my part, I have ever believed, and do now know that there are witches; and they that doubt of these, do not only deny *them*, but spirits, and are obliquely and upon consequences a sort not of Infidels but Atheists."

As early as 1536, Felix Plätter, a German alienist, described four conditions, to wit: mental weakness corresponding to the state later spoken of as Dementia; mental alienation corresponding to Paranoia or Mania; mental abolition corresponding to mental confusion; and mental anxiety corresponding to Melancholia. So here we have a descriptive symptomatic classification almost four hundred years old. Various other investigators, later in the eighteenth century, and early in the nineteenth century, described symptom-pictures, some of which hold good even to-day; in the great line of names associated with this early time one must linger for a moment to mention Chiarurgi, Pinel, Esquirol and Georget, in France; Tuke and Cullen, in England; and Benjamin Rush, in America, the last-named finding time in the midst of multifarious duties as head of the Institute of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, to devote many hours to the consideration of the symptoms shown by the inmates of the Philadelphia Asylums, and the fascinating descriptions contained in the writings of the man who has been described as the father of American Psychiatry, make most interesting reading for the present-day student of the subject.

Passing on to still more modern times, Griesinger, Kahlbaum, Hecker and Zeller, in Germany; Baillarger and Bayle, in France; Tuke, Prichard, Bicknell and Connoley, in England, are all landmarks on the way. In 1840 Zeller described all forms of insanity as belonging to one type, each case passing through four phases: that of depression, excitement, irrelevancy and dementia. What a different conception from that of one modern German psychiatrist who describes eight or nine forms of Paranoia alone.

Following in chronological order, the names of Morel, Mey-