

Another point to which the author devotes much attention is that visual impressions are arranged in groups, and this explains why the memory for letters may be lost, while that for words is retained, or that the memory for words may be lost while that for letters and other objects is intact. The author remarks that the visual perceptive centres are situated in the neighborhood of the cuneus and calcarine fissures. These centres enable us to determine the position of an object in the visual field. The visual memory centre is in the supra-marginal and angular gyri. Derangements of this centre cause mind-blindness. The objects are seen but they convey no information to the person, as they are not recognized by him. The little book is a very interesting monograph upon this subject.

Mentally Deficient Children: Their Treatment and Training.

By G. E. SHUTTLEWORTH, B.A., M.D., etc. Second edition.
London: H. K. Lewis. 1900.

It is perhaps a matter for regret that medical men generally do not take more interest in this subject. While there are a goodly number of children that are feeble-minded, in the sense of imbecile or idiotic, there are a still larger number that present a certain amount of mental deficiency in some direction, falling within the limits of the above, and yet disqualifying them from profiting by the ordinary course of education.

His classification of pathological grounds is very interesting.

1. There are the cases of congenital mental deficiency: microcephalus, congenital hydrocephalus, mongol or kalmuc type, scrofulous cases, birth-palsies with athetosis, congenital cretinism, primarily neurotic.

2. The non-congenital cases—(a) developmental cases: The eclamptic, as from convulsions during teething, etc., epileptic cases, inherited syphilitic cases; (b) accidental or acquired: Traumatic, post-febrile, emotional, as shock and fright, toxic influences on the brain.

The treatment is discussed under general, medical and surgical. In the treatment of sporadic cretins he speaks highly of the value of thyroid extract. The author condemns the practice of craniectomy. He concludes that the removal of strips of bone does no good, and that in the light of results, the operation should be abandoned.

He speaks highly of the value of proper educational, industrial and moral training. On the whole, he takes a very hopeful view of the improvement that may be effected in many of these cases along the lines of a true physiological education. He has little sympathy with saying, "once an idiot, always an idiot." We strongly commend the book.