

The success, the author claims, which attends the American surgeons in this department is largely due to their natural inventive genius and mechanical ingenuity, combined with the fact that they fit and apply all apparatus themselves, and do not send their patients to instrument-makers who know nothing of disease. No doubt the general practitioner does too often turn his cases of deformity over to instrument-makers for treatment. This is pointed out as absolutely wrong, as one might just as properly send a patient to a druggist for treatment after making a diagnosis.

The work lacks in its dealing with pathological conditions, paying very little attention to this important branch of the subject.

---

A COMPENDIUM OF INSANITY. By John B. Chapin, M.D., LL.B., Physician-in-Chief to Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane. Illustrated. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders.

The purpose of the author to compile in a condensed and concise form a compendium of diseases of the mind for the convenient use and aid of physicians and medical students has been very successfully accomplished. While making no pretension of being an elaborate treatise on insanity, the work is more than a compend, and the condensation is not made at the expense of clearness in describing the mental symptoms of the different forms of insanity. In the chapter on classification of insanity, while strictly adhering to the scientific aspect of his subject, Dr. Chapin inclines to a position of moderate conservatism. While not departing too far from the long-recognized elements of Pinol and Esquirol, he favors a scheme based on clinical forms as furnishing the best classification. This is practically the plan adopted by the French congress of 1889, and it is one that allows of indefinite expansion to admit new clinical and pathological forms as they come to be demonstrated. He asserts that the time has not arrived when a classification can be based on the pathological conditions of the insane, because too little is known. Observation, experience, and the results of treatment lead to the conclusion that all insanities have an origin in physical changes in the nervous mass, mental and physical degenerations, or in a deficiency of those nutritive processes that sustain the functions of the nervous centers.

The clinical descriptions, while brief, are pen-pictures which are strikingly graphic and life-like. This can scarcely be said of the photographic illustrations.

The sections dealing with the therapeutics of insanity are exceedingly valuable and, coming from one whose wisdom has been acquired by years of experience, possess the merit of being thoroughly practicable. He summarizes the treatment of the insane most succinctly by urging the following procedure. (1) To remove any known cause of ill-health; (2) to promote the normal performance of the bodily functions; (3) to place the greatest reliance upon nutritious food; and (4) to place