
Professor Bleuler's textbook has long been known to the psychiatrist in a series of German editions. His works have exercised considerable influence on the trend of thought and teaching in regard to mental diseases, more particularly, perhaps, on the continent; his views on schizophrenia and on other mental states have become incorporated in current psychiatric doctrine, and while he is essentially a modernist his general attitude towards certain modern developments, e.g., that of the Freudian school, has always been detached and independent. It is an advantage, therefore, to have in English garb the collected teaching of so eminent a psychiatrist, psychologist, and clinician. The student will find in these pages a semiology of mental diseases of particular value, because it provides not so much a descriptive psychiatry as a presentation of psychiatric principles applied to clinical cases. The first part of the book contains an account of the disorders of the various processes of the mind, which embodies the most recent conclusions of the psychopathologist, while the second part gives a clear differentiation of the types of disease encountered by the neuropsychiatrist. As is perhaps to be expected, to schizophrenia is devoted a large but not an inordinate part of this division of the volume.

Unfortunately, Professor Bleuler is badly served by the translator of his finely conceived and finely written textbook. So excellent a treatise on modern psychiatry deserves the best that can be given it when it is put into a new form for the English-speaking reader. Instead, we find innumerable slips, grammatical errors, misprints, and occasionally almost unintelligible renderings, the total effect of which is deplorable. The redundant "the" is everywhere in evidence; many sentences are made to commence with the un-English "also"; while the number of "to be sure's" may perhaps please the Hibernian reader, but they have a wearying effect on the English mind. The primitive reactions of the schizophrenic are stated to include "crying, window breaking, and scratching up the husband" (page 177). There are lapses into pure vulgarisms, as, for example, in the account of an alcoholic who "scalded his wife with hot water and peed in her face" (page 308), or in such a sentence as the following: "the alcoholic who has celebrated blue Monday is ashamed to go to work on Tuesday and bums the entire week" (page 309). We are told that in rare cases of delirium tremens the temperature rises to over 140° F. (page 335). The pleasant neologism "parasthenia" appears passim for "paraesthesia." We are informed (page 368) that some cretins "remain less than a yard high. The stump[!] and the extremities contribute about equally to this anomaly." In cases of alcoholic leukencephalitis "death results in coma and marasmus" (page 351). And so on. Unless the translator of a foreign treatise is conscious of the responsibility attaching to his task, it had better not be attempted at all.

In spite of the unnecessary handicap imposed by such imperfect presenta-
tions of the author's meaning, we welcome the opportunity of recommending to the psychiatrist and student an English version of Professor Bleuler's textbook, in which are combined rare clinical acumen and a philosophic breadth of view that is all too seldom met with.


This book is an interesting and important contribution to medicopsychological literature. It is written by a physician with unique experience of patients with criminal conduct.

The author deals with the different clinical forms of mental disorder, and examines the types of criminal conduct that are apt to occur in connection with each of them. Each of the chief forms of disorder has a chapter. On the whole, the crimes committed appear to be largely what the clinician would expect. Thus the foolish crimes that appear in general paralysis are characteristic of the dementia in that disease. Most of them appear to be silly thefts. Dementia preekox exhibits a collection of more bizarre crimes. Many practitioners will be surprised to learn of the considerable number of crimes of violence that occur in senile dementia. The chapter on crimes associated with paranoia is one of the most interesting in the book. It is of importance to read that in nearly all Dr. Sullivan's cases the paranoiac has given warning of his intention to commit violence, either by writing to the police or by asking for protection from his supposed persecutors. This fact has been generally observed, but its importance is nearly always overlooked. It is not easy to criticise a book which is so obviously the result of careful clinical work and observation. We hope, however, that another edition may contain a fuller and more accurate psychopathology. This defect is perhaps especially noticeable in the chapter on alcoholism.

The author has not overloaded his work with figures and statistical diagrams. Such figures as do appear are clear and illustrative. Crime and Insanity is a book that should be carefully read by every alienist, and may well be perused with interest and profit by the general practitioner, the lawyer and the social worker.

G. W. B. James.


It is true, as the writer says, that such a problem as he here deals with cannot be approached purely from a psychopathological standpoint, and that due importance must be given to results obtained in related fields of study, such as ethnology, genetic psychology, and religion. Though the value of the work of Freud, Jung, and Bleuler is recognized, Storch differs from them in more than one way. He regards schizophrenic thinking as a process carried along by an emotional undercurrent, and this can only be understood by "entering