

BOOK REVIEWS.

MORPHINISM AND NARCOMANIAS FROM OTHER DRUGS; THEIR ETIOLOGY, TREATMENT AND MEDICOLEGAL RELATIONS. By T. D. CROTHERS, M. D., Superintendent of Walnut Lodge Hospital, Hartford, Conn.; Editor of the Journal of Inebriety; Professor of Mental and Nervous Diseases, New York School of Clinical Medicine, etc. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders & Co. 2.00 net.

The first steps in the solution of a problem by reason are necessarily a consciousness of the existence of the problem and a clear statement of it in its relations. Often as great a service is rendered by the accomplishment of these steps as by the actual solution. This is especially true in the case of sociological problems, which because of their proximity, are apt to be overlooked until they have grown so great as to seem almost insoluble, although their solution might have been comparatively easy had they been discovered and attempted sooner.

That there are such growing problems in connection with the excessive use of narcotic drugs, the subject of this review seems to clearly show. The author's statistics as to the spread of the use of such drugs pathologically, his statement that, "In a study of 3,244 physicians in this country, 10 per cent were estimated as either secret or open users of the drug [morphine]," his citation of numerous cases in which specialists have been deceived into believing that the pathological condition was due to other causes; and his assertion that "Medical colleges have not yet introduced this study [of these manias] into their curriculums, and the dangers from narcotic drugs . . . are practically unknown to recent graduates," all tend to show that there are problems in this connection which should meet with immediate and vigorous attack.

The "great practical questions" which he presents to the medical profession are:

"What are the causes and conditions which develop morphinism and lead to other narcomanias, and how can they be recognized, averted and prevented?"

"What means and methods are essential for the cure in the early stages, and how can they be successfully treated in the later and chronic conditions? What can be done with the growing armies of drug neurotics? How can we care for them and treat them practically?"

To the mind of a member of the legal profession the book presents such questions as:

What is the effect of such manias upon criminal intent?

How should they be considered in relation to capacity of witnesses, and how in respect to testamentary capacity?

To the sociologist, in addition to the above questions, it presents a large field over which his research in criminology may extend, and the problem of what may be done by legislation to limit the traffic in these insidious poisons and thereby safeguard the unsuspecting and the weak from the inception of their habitual use.

Our author points out that little has been done along the line of scientific research with a view to the solution of any of these problems or answer of these questions. He has no panacea to offer for the ills resulting from the conditions which he presents, but the book has, nevertheless, a value over and above that of simply stating problems for solution. The author has been—for over twenty-five years—actively engaged in the treatment and care of narcomaniacs. He has here set down much of the scientific data gathered by him during that time, together with some of his conclusions therefrom. The work must, therefore, prove a suggestive help to any student of these problems.

The chapter headings are as follows: History of Morphinism; Some Distinctions, Classifications and Stages; Etiology; Symptomology, Peculiarities, Prognosis and Termination; Diagnosis, Complications; Treatment, etc.; Opium-taking, Its Prevalence, Diagnosis; Medicolegal Relations of Crime and Responsibility; Cocainism, its Etiology and Treatment; Chloralism, its Etiology and Treatment; Chloroformism, its Etiology and Treatment; Coffee Addiction; Tea Inebriety; Tobacco Inebriety; Ether Inebriety; Addictions from other Drugs, and Some Conclusions. It will, no doubt, seem to some that the author goes absurdly far in including coffee, tea and tobacco in the list of drugs producing narcomania, but his observations seem to justify the conclusion that the difference between these and the other producing causes among drugs is more in degree than in kind.

The propriety of this review in a publication devoted primarily to legal subjects may at first be questioned, but members of the profession should be more, rather than less humanitarian by virtue of their learning and experience, and this is certainly a subject of vital human importance. Be that as it may, the chapter on the medicolegal relations of the subject will certainly justify the book's presence in the library of any student of the law.

It is not believed that the book will or should have a large general circulation. It has no such purpose. But it is recommended to thoughtful workers for the betterment of human conditions with the hope that it will startle some into activity against this gigantic, but almost unrecognized evil.

T. M. P.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW BUILDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW, FEBRUARY 21 and 22, 1900. Compiled by GEORGE ERASMUS NITZSCHE. Philadelphia: Published by the University. 1901.

A limited edition of this interesting compilation was issued last year. In addition to being an appropriate souvenir of that occasion the book contains much of permanent value. The addresses of Dean Lewis and Dean Ames and of Mr. Justice Harlan could not but be appreciated, even though the reader had no personal interest in the event in honor of which these addresses were made. The book has many illustrations of excellence and is well and tastily bound in blue buckram with gold lettering. It is undoubtedly a valuable contribution to the history of the University.

THE BARRISTER; BEING ANECDOTES OF THE LATE TOM NOLAN, OF THE NEW YORK BAR. (With Portrait.) Compiled by CHARLES FREDERICK STANSBURY. New York: Mab Press. 1901.

In this little book the compiler has gathered together a number of anecdotes of legal and other connection and strung them together by the name of this eccentric member of the New York Bar. It has no particular merit unless it be that there are not more than its 264 pages between its covers. The few amusing anecdotes contained in it would be more acceptable if separated in a chapter by themselves.

THE NECESSITY FOR CRIMINAL APPEAL AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE MAYBRICK CASE AND THE JURISPRUDENCE OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES. Edited by J. H. LEVY. London: P. S. King & Son. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1899.

This book is a report at length of the famous Maybrick murder trial in England, with a running commentary on the evidence in notes and a comparative study of the right to criminal appeal under various systems of jurisprudence. Its object is to show that as a result of the system existing in England, injustice may and probably has been done in trials of this character. It will prove interesting and valuable material for one interested in that trial in particular and in the legal point involved in the author's argument in general.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES—Annotated. By EDWIN E. BRYANT. Madison, Wis.: Published by the Author. 1901.

Every now and then, in the course of publication, a book comes out into the world to fill a need, long unsupplied—of such

kind is the present little volume by Dean Bryant, of the University of Wisconsin Law School. In a brief and modest preface the author sums up very clearly the scope of his work when he declares that "its aim is to enable the student readily to find the cases in which the court has interpreted the Constitution, indicating concisely the points decided in the cases cited."

The plan of the book is especially pleasing—the text naturally consisting of the Constitution of the United States, inserted section by section, each section being followed by notes of the decisions of the Supreme Court thereon from the organization of the court till October, 1900. These notes form a part of the text itself, as there are no foot notes whatever, and amount to abstracts of the cases bearing upon the particular section of the Constitution in question. The abstracts are brief, but to the point, and present the cases boiled down until only their important principles are left to be digested.

The amendments to the Constitution have been treated in the same manner as the original articles, and each amendment is followed by an exhaustive line of authorities. After the main text, the author has inserted a chronology, showing the dates of the admission of states into the Union, the adoption of the original Constitution by each of the original states and of the several amendments, which will undoubtedly prove a great convenience to those who are studying the volume from an historical standpoint.

In the addendum are to be found those cases which were not inserted in their proper connection, but which are here lined up under appropriate headings. Here, also, are to be found those decisions which were handed down by the Supreme Court during the period from October, 1900, to March, 1901,—thus bringing the book almost up to date. And last, but not least, is the index—a thorough and careful piece of work, and a most useful addition to a very useful volume.

There is, of course, no original work on the part of the author—he has advanced no theoretical deductions to incite the mind of the reader to action in an endeavor to refute the same—but to the student of Constitutional Law, especially that student who is attempting to follow the case system, the book is of immense value as an aid to a clear understanding of the cases, and of the Constitution through them.

W. C. M.