

than in its purely clinical aspect, and it is certainly a singular circumstance that while the faith cure, homœopathy, and similar nonentities are notoriously successful among the hysterical, hypnotism seems to be comparatively useless in this class of patients.

"No man was more opposed to quackery, and to him is due the credit of helping to rescue artificial somnambulism from the illegitimate embrace of the charlatan. Fifteen years ago, only a strong man could have given the demonstrations which he gave without endangering his professional status, and a few shallow visitors carped even at him; but he passed through the ordeal with impunity, and rendered it easy for others to prosecute the same studies. He left an example to other investigators of avoiding the rocks on which some of his *confrères* without his scientific instinct have foolishly run their craft and suffered well-merited shipwreck. Never did the illustrious Professor at the Salpêtrière allow himself to be drawn aside from the path of inductive science. His scorn of the frauds and follies which sprang up in a credulous circle outside his own school was only equalled by that which he manifested for the incredulous ignoramuses in his own profession who sneered at phenomena which they could not understand, but in which he recognized, like our own Laycock, a rich source of neurological and psychological knowledge."—*"E. M. J.,"* August 26, 1893.

M. DELASIAUVE.

Dr. Delasiauve (Louis Jean François), who died on the 5th of June last, had well-nigh reached his 89th year. He was born on the 14th of October, 1804, at Garennes, in Normandy. Anxious to study the medical sciences, he came early to Paris, where it was his privilege to see the great alienist, Pinel, and to attend his funeral. He was a pupil of Esquirol and Ferrus, and a friend of J. P. Falret, F. Voisin, Trélat, Leuret, Calmeil, Foville, Parchappe, Moreau de Tours, Lélut, Baillarger. One of these well-known alienists is still alive; at this very moment Calmeil enjoys good health, and is now 95 years old; he resides close to Paris, at Fontenay sous Bois. Delasiauve took the degree of Doctor in 1830, a few days after the Revolution and the fall of Charles X. He returned to the country, and during about twelve years was a practising physician at Ivry la Bataille, a small town near which Henri IV. defeated Mayenne and the Ligueurs in 1590. He succeeded wonderfully. But in such a place there was not sufficient room for his great activity. He came back to the metropolis, and after a brilliant competition was received as a physician in the Paris hospitals. In 1844 he obtained a ward at Bicêtre. The study of idiocy and epilepsy had a great attraction for him; he was fond of those unfortunate children, whose life is a long distress, and endeavoured to educate the idiots. He opened a special school at Bicêtre, and some years afterwards at the Salpêtrière. As an alienist he is well known, and his private life was excellent. His friends and pupils will never forget his kindness.

Some of Delasiauve's principal books and notices were as follows:—

Du diagnostic différentiel du delirium tremens, ou stupeur ébriuse (*"Revue Médicale,"* 1850).

D'une forme grave de delirium tremens (*Idem.*, 1852).

Sur la stupidité ou mélancolie avec stupeur (*Idem.*, 15 Octobre, 1853).

Consultation médico-légale sur une aliénation mentale occasionnée par les vapeurs mercurielles (*"Expérience,"* Décembre, 1840).

Mémoire sur l'extase (*"Réveil de l'Eure,"* 1842).

Essai de classification des maladies mentales (*Idem.*, 1844).

Considérations théoriques sur la folie (lues à l'Académie de Médecine, en 1843.)

Influence du choléra sur la production de la folie ("Annales Médico-Psychologiques," 1849).

Du diagnostic différentiel de la lypémanie (*Idem.*, 1851).

De la classification et du diagnostic différentiel de la paralysie générale (*Idem.*, 1851).

Observations de rougeole chez les idiots (*Idem.*).

D'une forme mal décrite de délire consécutif à l'épilepsie (*Idem.*, 1852).

Note sur le traitement de l'épilepsie par les frictions stibiées sur le cuir chevelu (*Idem.*).

De la monomanie au point de vue psychologique et légal (*Idem.*, 1853).

Traité de l'épilepsie (1854).

Des principes qui doivent présider à l'éducation des idiots (1859).

Discours aux pris des enfants épileptiques, idiots et aliénés de la Salpêtrière.

Classification des maladies mentales, ayant pour double base la psychologie et la clinique ("Progrès Médical," 21 février, 3 et 10 mars, 1877).

M. Delasiauve edited the "Journal de Médecine Mentale" from 1860 to 1871.

RENÉ SEMELAIGNE.

M. BLANCHE.

It falls to our lot to chronicle the death of another Paris physician. All three were honorary members of our Association.

M. Blanche had a bountiful supply of the milk of human kindness, and was beloved by every one. He was, in truth, *un grand homme de bien*. His loss will be mourned by not a few English alienists who visited him in Paris or met him in England.

Antoine-Emile Blanche was born in Paris, October 1st, 1820, and was consequently 72 years of age when he died on the 15th August last. He was born in the Maison de Santé, founded by his father. He became Doctor of Medicine in 1848. When his father died he became the director of the asylum.

It was when conversing with his patients that M. Blanche could be best judged and the nobility and delicacy of his heart appreciated. No one possessed more tact and ability in gaining the confidence of the insane and consoling them in their sorrows. To those in indigent circumstances he was generous in the extreme. Many mourn his loss sincerely who have thus benefited by his kindness—a charity of a very unobtrusive character. His benevolence was not, however, his only quality; he took a high position in the special department to which he devoted himself. He was the author of several works, one of which, "Les Homicides commis par les Aliénés" (1878), is valuable both for its record of cases and his commentaries. He also wrote articles on Melancholia, the Moral Treatment of Insanity, Mental Alienation as a Justification of Divorce, and the Reform of the French Lunacy Law.

On the question of divorce on the ground of insanity, he gave evidence before the Commissions appointed by the Senate and the Chamber, and, supported by Charcot, Motet, and Magnan, he successfully contended that the marriage tie should never be dissolved on this ground.

For thirty years M. Blanche was consulted in nearly every criminal case in which the plea of insanity was set up.

M. Blanche was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour in 1854.

He consecrated his last days to his patients at Passy, and nothing but illness induced him to suspend his work. He was only confined to bed for a dozen days; then he passed away, "avec le calme d'une belle âme et avec la conviction profonde qu'il n'avait fait que le bien toute sa vie," to quote the words of a Paris medical journal, to which we are indebted for much of the foregoing notice.