

ton was Royer-Collard, who died in November, 1825, and was succeeded by Esquirol. Esquirol remained resident superintendent until his death, which occurred on the 12th of December, 1840. During the whole of the time Calmeil was the assistant and the friend of the great alienist. Achille Foville, who succeeded Esquirol, kept his post until the revolution of 1848. The service was then sub-divided; Archambault obtained the men's ward, Calmeil that of the females. But Archambault soon left the establishment to take the direction of a private asylum in Paris (now Dr. Motet's house), and Calmeil became the Superintendent of Charenton. In 1872 he retired and moved to Paris, and during 23 years lived in a quiet retreat at Fontenay sous Bois with his wife and amongst his pupils, who paid frequent visits to their old and loved master. Calmeil enjoyed to the last the plenitude of his faculties, and died on the 11th of March, 1895.

He was an Honorary Member of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Société Médico-Psychologique de Paris.

Some of Calmeil's principal books and notices are as follows:—

Observations de ramollissement du cerveau (publiées dans le livre de Rostan, 1820).

De l'épilepsie étudiée sous le rapport de son siège et de son influence sur la production de l'aliénation mentale (Thèse, Paris, 17 Juin, 1824, No. 110).

De la paralysie considérée chez les aliénés (Recherches faites dans le service et sous les yeux de Royer-Collard et d'Esquirol, Paris, 1826, in 8vo).

Des maladies de la moelle épinière (Paris, 1839, in 8vo).

De la folie considérée sous le point de vue pathologique, philosophique, historique et judiciaire (Paris, 1845, 2 Vol., in 8vo).

Rapport médico-légal sur l'état mental de J. R. inculpé d'homicide volontaire (Annales Médico-Psychologiques, 1856, Vol. ii., p. 66).

Traité des maladies inflammatoires du cerveau (Paris, 1859, 2 Vol., in 8vo).

Dans le Dictionnaire in 30 volumes, les articles: Aliénés—Catalepsie—Cauchemar—Céphalalgie—Céphalée—Contenance—Contracture—Delirium tremens—Encéphale—Extase—Hallucinations—Idiotie—Imbécillité—Magnétisme animal—Manie—Migraine—Moelle épinière—Monomanie—Système nerveux—Paralysie générale des aliénés—Ramollissement cérébral—Suicide.

Dans le Dictionnaire encyclopédique des sciences médicales, l'article: Des maladies intercurrentes des aliénés.

RENÉ SEMELAIGNE.

### Correspondence.

To the Editors of "THE JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE."

SIRs,—It is not usually judicious to reply to a critical notice of a book sent for review, but when matters of fact are in issue it becomes necessary; hence I trust you will find room for the following remarks on your notice of my book on "Lunacy Law for Medical Men."

Your reviewer complains that "there is a tendency to overload the text by reference to cases, so that, for instance, the busy practitioner will find he has to read through six pages of matter under the head of Medical Certificates before he finds the paragraph pointing out that the examination upon which he bases his certificate must be made within a period of seven days before the presentation of the petition." As a matter of fact the case is even worse than your reviewer states it, the number of pages preceding the paragraph in question being seven. Whether the verification of statements by reference to decided cases is a disadvantage, is a matter of opinion; but the "overloading of the text" in the instance quoted consists of a reference to *one* case, the reference

occupying eight lines out of the seven pages. Whether the paragraph concerning the respective dates of the certificate and the presentation of the petition should have had precedence, is another matter of opinion. For my own part I must confess to a conservative habit of mind, and an old-fashioned prejudice in favour of taking things in their logical order. Hence it was that I thought it desirable to treat first of the question whether a certificate should be made at all, before treating of the circumstances and conditions under which it should be made.

Your reviewer states that "under the head of Urgency Orders there are eight pages (pp. 41 to 48), but the practitioner having waded through them has to turn to p. 80 to find that he must have personally examined the patient, not more than two clear days before the reception of the patient." This statement displays the disadvantage of the method pursued by your reviewer. If he had read the pages 41 to 48 in the ordinary manner instead of "wading through" them, he would have discovered that the information required is given on p. 44 as well as on p. 80, and in the index he will find that p. 44 is referred to as the place in which this information is given.

The next objection is that in the index no mention is made of "single patients," by which, I presume, is meant patients in single care, but as more than one-third of the book is entirely devoted to this class of patients, it is evident that any mention of them in the index must have been followed by references to more than 50 pages, which would scarcely have added to the value of the index.

"Frequent reference," says your reviewer, "is made to the rules of the Commissioners in Lunacy, and . . . it seems to us that no book on Lunacy Law for the use of medical men can be complete without them." This comment shows a curious inability to apprehend the object of the book, which is, not to repeat the whole of the provisions of the Lunacy Law, but to extract from the Act and the rules made under the Act, all the provisions by which general medical practitioners have to be guided in dealing with insane persons. It was expressly with the object of saving the practitioner the trouble of going through the whole of the Act and the rules, in order to discover the particular enactments with which he is concerned, that the book was written, and this object is stated in the preface.

Your reviewer is "well aware that it is by no means an easy task to condense an Act of Parliament." This may or may not be so, but as no attempt is made in my book to do anything of the kind the statement appears to be somewhat irrelevant. "But," he goes on, "when the condensed form is mixed up with references, quotations from cases, and general rules for guidance, it is likely to become somewhat distracting for the unfortunate reader to find what he wants." It will be observed that this criticism is made upon an assumption which deprives it of all value. It assumes that the book is intended to be a condensation of the Lunacy Act. So far from that being the case the book is intended to be an expansion and explanation of those provisions of the Act which affect the general practitioner of medicine. Whether a book of this character would be improved if the references to authorities were omitted, if illustrative cases were omitted, and if general rules for guidance were omitted, I must leave "the unfortunate reader" to judge. Whether the reader will "find what he wants" depends to some extent upon what he does want. If he wants to find a condensation of an Act of Parliament in a book which professes to be an expansion of certain parts of that Act, he is, indeed, unfortunate, but his misfortune is native, and is not imposed upon him by

Your obedient servant,  
CHAS. MERCIER.