Mental pathology and therapeutics. Translated from the German (2d ed.) by C. Lockhart Robertson and James Rutherford

Griesinger Wilhelm
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MENTAL PATHOLOGY

AND

THERAPEUTICS

BY

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TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN (SECOND EDITION).

BY

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MDCCCLXVII.
ADVERTISEMENT BY THE AUTHOR.

The first edition of this work appeared in Germany in 1845; the second, enlarged, but not considerably changed, in 1861. If the reader finds in this book thoughts, facts, and opinions which he has met with in recent books, or articles in periodicals, the Author begs him to keep these dates in memory.

G.

Berlin; June, 1867.
NOTE BY THE TRANSLATORS.

We have endeavoured, in the following translation of the second edition of Professor Griesinger's standard work on 'Mental Pathology and Therapeutics,' to give the English reader an accurate and literal rendering of the German text. In thus adhering to the literal meaning of the author, we have followed the example of the learned translator of the French edition¹ of this work, with which we have throughout carefully compared our own readings. If possible, the French translation renders Professor Griesinger's German medico-metaphysics (not easily understood even in German) more literally than we have done. It was soon evident to us that any attempts at a more liberal rendering of these difficulties would only farther obscure—possibly contravene—the author's meaning.

Professor Griesinger is essentially the representative and the acknowledged leader of the modern German school of Medical Psychology. As such, his work must be an object of deep interest to every student in Mental Science.

C. L. R.

J. R.

June 1, 1867.

¹ 'Traité des Maladies Mentales, pathologie et thérapeutique, par le Docteur W. Griesinger, &c. &c. Traduit de l'Allemand (2e édition) sous les yeux de l'Auteur, par le Docteur Doumic, Médecin de la Maison centrale de Poissy.' Paris, 1865, pp. 587.
I am happy to be able at last to place in the hands of the profession the long-delayed second edition of this work. It is not entirely a new work, many chapters remain entirely unaltered; many others, however, have undergone correction and remodelling, and, in particular, great additions have been made, which I hope may be considered as adding to the value of the work. Fewest changes have been necessary in the description of the special forms of insanity: melancholia, mania, dementia, &c., have indeed remained the same since 1845. Most alterations and additions occur in the parts relating to etiology, pathological anatomy, the anatomy of the brain, the psychological introduction, the complications of insanity, and treatment. An entirely new section on the general diagnosis of mental disease has been added, and also a section on idiocy and cretinism. This subject is entirely omitted in the first edition. Since the date of its publication I have had occasion and opportunity more immediately to employ myself with these states through my connection with the idiot asylum of Mariaberg, which was under my direction during the latter period of my residence in Württemberg. The number of illustrative cases has been increased by the addition of several interesting examples: in many of the more important chapters the principal literature is given to the reader who desires further information; finally, I have, as often as opportunity occurred, sought to elucidate the medico-legal aspect of
psychiatrie from the standpoint of the doctrines contained in this work, and, as occasion offered, expressed my views shortly but distinctly concerning much that is related to the present state of medical psychology. In this I had solely the interests of science and the profit of the reader in view, totally regardless of the censure or applause of this or of that school.

As, to my great joy, the first edition of this work won many friends to the study of our interesting science, I hope that the second also will contribute to the extension of psychological knowledge, and, in particular, of correct views upon the subject. In the Universities our speciality is still far too much ignored, and clinical instruction especially is as yet nowhere conducted and acknowledged in a degree corresponding to the importance of the subject. I have done my part. In Tübingen, for upwards of ten years, I regularly delivered lectures upon medical psychology, in conjunction with my principal subject, and, as often as opportunity offered, admitted cases of mental disease into my clinique, making them, like any other disease, the subjects of clinical instruction and discussion. The advantage of this is so apparent that I live in the hope that very soon the establishment of regular psychological cliniques will become general. It is through these that the proper idea, the purely medical, of mental disease, conjoined, however, with a knowledge of the morbid mental symptoms, can first receive that general extension, so very desirable, whereby mere asylum managers can no longer call themselves medical psychologists, whereby that fantastical bombast, sounding of the spiritual world, which is still sometimes apparent in psychological literature, will soon give way to temperate, clear, medical observation.

Several of the most recent writers on insanity have been so well pleased with the first edition of my book that they have assumed into their writings not only the ideas and doctrines, the arrangement
and examples contained in it, but have even taken, without restraint, as their own, simple excerpts of whole sections. I quietly permitted this to occur, but now it would, of course, be disagreeable to me if any one were to think that it was I who, in this edition, had borrowed from those authors. I would therefore beg of the reader, wherever doctrines, pages, and even chapters, occur similar, or nearly similar, to what they may shortly before have read in books or journals, simply to compare them with the first edition of this work which appeared in 1845.

G.

Zurich; July 12, 1861.