

pathological and microscopic contributions to psychiatry were those which brought his name into especial notice, and is the work which will be most likely to endure. Dr. Ford Robertson, in the "Pathology of Mental Disease," specially and repeatedly refers to that work. He says, in regard to one part of it, that "There are to-day practically no new facts of importance to be added" to his work. He was the first to describe the course of pigmentary deposits in the vessels and cells of the cerebral cortex. He was the first also to describe the great importance of the intra-cranial lymphatic system as an element in the pathological process in some forms of insanity. He described a new appearance which he called "miliary sclerosis," which now is known by the name of "senile plaques," and certain other degenerations of the cerebral cells. He was one of the early observers of the clinical symptoms and pathological appearances in syphilitic arteritis, as also of the increased blood-pressure in general paralysis. He reported his cases with great care and accuracy when recording clinical work. In his Morison Lectures he described "The Insanity of Over-exertion of the Brain." He devised a new "pathological classification of insanity." He advocated a uniform system of recording *post-mortem* examinations in the insane, and he himself reported thirty cases on that system. He conjoined himself with the late Dr. Howden, of Montrose, in this work. He wrote the articles "Insanity" and "Hysteria" in the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. He did not confine himself to pathological and clinical work, but also advocated strongly an extension of the "open-door" methods of treating patients in asylums, which had a very considerable effect in extending the ideas of the amount of freedom that might be given to many patients during their treatment with advantage to their happiness and recovery. He believed strongly in the results of a scientific study of insanity. In his address at the Edinburgh meeting of the British Medical Association he took as his subject, "The Modern Conception of the Ætiology of Insanity." He read at the Royal Society of Edinburgh a paper on the "Constitution of the Pia-mater," maintaining that the pia-arachnoid was one membrane, the arachnoid being simply the outer layer of the pia. This view has since been generally adopted. He contended that the vessels course between the two layers, instead of the older view that they ran in its inner layer.

A personal friend who knew him specially well gives the accompanying personal touches in an appreciative sketch in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for November, 1913: "He possessed a peculiarly subtle imagination and charm of manner which won him the friendship of men of the most various tastes and character. He was particularly happy in his relationship with younger men, in whose society he seemed to take special pleasure. Perhaps it was this association that kept his mind so alert and receptive of new ideas. Many of his friends, who have since risen to positions of distinction in their professions, have reason to remember with gratitude his encouragement and help in their early struggles with fortune. A little coterie who for many years assembled every spring as his guests at his bungalow at Gullane saw Tuke at his best. Here he was the genial, kind host, dispensing a simple but generous hospitality, making everyone feel thoroughly at home, and drawing out whatever was best and most interesting in each of his guests. He was the life of the party, the happiest of the crowd, stalking round the links, a cheroot constantly between his lips, and constantly followed by 'Dandie,' the faithful friend of many years. The memory of these delightful holidays will linger lovingly in the hearts of everyone who was privileged to participate in them."

Altogether Sir John Batty Tuke's original work and his thinking have influenced modern psychiatry, and his name will go down as one of those who gave an early impetus to the great advance which has taken place in our department of medicine during the last fifty years.

T. S. C.

#### PROFESSOR PAUL NÄCKE.

Dr. Paul Näcke, director of the asylum at Colditz, in Saxony, died suddenly on August 18th after more than thirty-three years of continuous work in alienism and unremitting literary activity. He was born in 1851, in St. Petersburg, the son of a German father and a French mother, and this mixed ancestry probably

counted for much in the determination of his varied and intense intellectual vigour, although the Teutonic heredity was clearly dominant. At the age of five the family came to Dresden, and his education was pursued here and afterwards at Leipzig, Würzburg and Paris. In 1880 he entered the asylum service of the kingdom of Saxony, in 1902 he became Superintendent of Hubertusburg, and in 1912 Director of Colditz. At the same time he travelled much and was an indefatigable reader; he was acquainted with seven languages and interested in the scientific and intellectual life of many countries (especially perhaps Italy, England, France and Spain). He was always eager to come into touch with fellow-workers in various lands whose work seemed to him of vital interest, discriminatingly generous in his appreciation of their researches, and anxious to welcome them at Hubertusburg. His natural sociability was, however, somewhat hampered by neurasthenia; one rare symptom which affected him, rumination, he fully described in the *Neurologisches Centralblatt* in 1893.

Näcke's first important investigation, a study of insanity and criminality in women, based on the ample material he had at hand at Hubertusburg, was published as a volume in 1894, *Verbrechen und Wahnsinn beim Weibe*. Herewith began Näcke's long warfare against Lombroso, conducted restlessly and unceasingly. His very legitimate criticisms of Lombroso, often made with considerable acerbity, sometimes failed to allow for Lombroso's value as a great seminal and stimulating force, although Näcke was just enough to recognise this fact, and, indeed, his own work conspicuously bore witness to it. Lombroso had some right on his side when he retorted on his opponent that if it were not for the Italian school Näcke's occupation would be gone. Notwithstanding the antagonism between them, the two men had points of resemblance in nervous temperament. They both had the same devouring and rather over-hasty passion for fresh intellectual conquests; and while Lombroso was too eager to be able to be accurate, Näcke was too restless to be able to work with the microscope; they even rivalled each other in the illegibility of their handwriting.

Näcke's activities were by no means confined to the destructive criticism of Lombroso. Much of his most characteristically elaborate, thorough, and richly learned work was in connection with general paralysis. The proposition he sought to maintain was that, beyond the unquestionable specific element, the general paralytic reveals a congenital morbid disposition, and is invalid *ab ovo*. The numerous, lengthy and systematic papers which Näcke published on this subject (more especially in the *Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie*, between 1898 and 1908), with their co-ordinated wealth of concentrated personal observation and wide-ranging familiarity with the literature of many lands, are highly interesting and impressive.

He also devoted much attention, especially during later years, to the various problems of sexual science. In this field, indeed, it can scarcely be said that the data at his disposal were large in amount. But his attitude towards the various difficult questions he took up—homosexuality (which he regarded as congenital and not morbid), the results of sexual abstinence, the diagnostic value of erotic dreams, the introduction of voluntary sterilisation on social grounds, etc.—may be described as, although sometimes advanced, generally temperate and circumspect.

It would not be easy to exhaust the list of the subjects in which Näcke was interested. They extended far beyond the limits of medicine to philosophy, history, ethnography, archæology, architecture, art and music (a bibliography of his chief papers, extending to 146 items, is printed in the *Psychiatrisch Neurologische Wochenschrift*, September 27th, 1913). Perhaps the best idea of his many-sided interests is gained from the notes and reviews which he contributed regularly to the *Archiv für Kriminalanthropologie* during at least the last ten years of his life.

Näcke's work and services were not unrecognised. He was the honorary or corresponding member of nearly a dozen learned societies in different countries, and his own State conferred upon him the honorary title of "Professor." It may be added that he was married, and leaves a widow and several children, one of whom, a daughter, has adopted her father's profession.

Paul Näcke is a fine and inspiring example of what may be achieved by a man who, possessing no great original gifts, devoted to an exacting specialty, and hampered by defective physical constitution, is yet firmly resolved to realise the best that is within him.

H. E.