

past fifty years have been great, and this Association has contributed its distinguished share to that progress, coming through the years with an honourable record. To the concluding words of Dr. Wylie we, too, would echo: "May the next fifty years be as fruitful and important."

H. FREIZE STEPHENS.

*General Organization of Aid for Psychopaths (In France) [Organisation Générale de l'Assistance aux Psychopathes]. (Hyg. Ment., May, 1927.) Toulouse, E., and Dupouy, R.*

After criticizing the existing law (of 1838) governing the detention and care of mental patients, the authors recommend that a new organization is urgently needed, and that it should comprise the following: (1) Prophylactic centres; (2) open psychiatric hospitals for acute and recoverable cases and certain lucid chronic patients; (3) open psychiatric hospitals for incurables and defectives; (4) closed psychiatric hospitals for dangerous and delinquent psychopaths.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Assistance for Epileptics by Means of Occupation [L'Assistance par le Travail aux Epileptiques]. (Hyg. Ment., April, 1927.) Cleelier, A., and Vervaeck, P.*

The authors record that for a hundred years the lack of means for protecting and helping sane epileptics in France has been constantly and repeatedly voiced by alienists, and they deplore the fact that practically nothing has yet been done in that country to assist them. They state that estimates of the number of epileptics in France vary from one to four per 1,000, and that the question is now more urgent than ever. They outline the provision made for them in other countries and urge public authorities in France to take steps without delay. While in occupation-therapy for the insane the treatment value of the work is of more importance than its intrinsic value, in the case of sane epileptics they claim that properly organized work could be made nearly, if not quite, sufficiently remunerative to support a colony or institution.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Suicide in Children [Les Suicides d'Enfants]. (Hyg. Ment., March, 1927.) Serin, S.*

The author quotes previous statistics on this subject, and states that of 420 suicides last year in Paris, 5 were of children below 16 years and 13 of minors of 16 to 20 years. The inadequate motives for this step in most cases in childhood are discussed, and reference is made to the bad heredity and the unhappy environment which are almost universally present as predisposing causes. Suggestion and imitation are also commonly powerful factors. Among other preventives in addition to social hygienic measures, the suppression of all detail of such suicides as occur is strongly advised.

W. D. CHAMBERS.