patients is receiving more careful attention of late, and consistent results are being harvested, with promise of a greater future yield, while the principles of non-restraint, parole, and outdoor care have made such strides that the public mind is being rapidly educated into a more healthy and natural view of insanity. Faith in drugs, excepting those of a stimulating and tonic nature, or as are directly indicated by disordered bodily function is perhaps less universal than in Europe and one finds less general use made of hypnotics and sedatives—even of those numerous and much lauded modern preparations.

But this was to be a letter containing a plain statement of facts and must not be allowed to degenerate into such a listing of virtues as would lay the writer open to the charge of indulging in that "spread eagleism" already too often detected among our American traits. If the above shall have served the purpose of demonstrating an honest attempt on the part of American psychiatrists to develop a science and a profession of psychiatry within the borders of their own big land, and if it shall have justified a modest claim to a verdict of *progress*, the writer will remain content with his humble message to the *confrères* across the sea.

DENMARK.

By Dr. A. Friis.

In Denmark little of note has happened to mark the progress of psychiatry during the year 1904.

The House of Parliament has decided that the Viborg Asylum, for chronic cases, shall be enlarged to accommodate 700 patients, a measure calculated to relieve the congestion at present felt with accommodation for only 350.

There is also under consideration a proposal to build another asylum for the helpless feeble-minded, who require only general care and supervision.

Literature on psychological subjects has been scanty, only one book having appeared. It is entitled *Slägter, Iagttagelser fra en Sindssyge, Anstalt* ("Families: Observations from an Asylum for the Insane"), by Dr. F. Lange, Medical Superintendent of the Middlefart Asylum. It is an excellent work in which the author, in his usual lucid style, puts forward his experiences of degeneration.

FRANCE.

By Dr. René Semelaigne.

Dementia præcox.—An interesting discussion on Dementia præcox took place at the annual meeting of French alienists held at Pau last August. Dr. Deny of Paris, in a Report on that subject, made the following statement: Dementia præcox is a psychosis essentially charac-

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.51.213.422 Published online by Cambridge University Press