

must not be regarded as the result of an accidental morphological anomaly, but as the relic of a definite and complex function, still to be observed in the large felines and in the dog and probably in primitive man, who possessed the same ferocity and voracity. It is "an atavistic return to the feline repast common to the beasts and to man in the Stone Age." The author might better have supported his thesis by demonstrating the habitual presence of the phenomenon in some existing race of savage mankind, or at least among the apes.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Auto-suggestion. (Rev. de Psychiat., June, 1912.) Bernheim.

Auto-suggestion is not only a suggestion which one makes voluntarily, it is more often a factor which springs up of itself within the brain. Suggestion is always purposeful, and at the same time it has its birth as a result of a stimulus. Just as in the material world there is no such thing as spontaneous generation, so there is no such thing in the psychic world. Every idea or image which has its origin in a sensation—it may be visceral, cardiac, muscular, etc.—but which is "self"-contained, may be described as auto-suggestion. The creative impression may be unknown or subconscious. When the brain is passive, when it is free from the reception of outward impressions, then it is that its automatic activity predominates. An active and attentive brain banishes the products of auto-suggestion as quickly as they are formed. Thus when the brain is dulled, control is lost and dreams arise. So it is that dreams may be described as hallucinatory auto-suggestions. It is known that experimentally we can influence and even create dreams. The natural dream arises by passive suggestion created automatically without the active co-operation of the subject. Dreams are psychic images which arise in the brain as the result of impressions, but which the subject cannot by any effort of will create; his conscious "ego" goes for nothing.

COLIN McDOWALL.

2. Clinical Psychiatry.

Amaurotic General Paralysis [Paralyse générale amaurotique]. (Bull. Soc. Clin. Méd. Ment., March, 1912.) Trenel and Puillet.

Case of a woman, æt. 56, the subject of general paralysis, in whom the most marked symptoms were hallucinations of almost every sense. The knee-jerks were absent on the right, brisk, but of small excursion on the left. Pupils equal, reactions normal, hippus present, optic atrophy. The authors discuss the question whether the association of a hallucinatory state with amaurosis is to be looked upon as a syndrome or merely as a coincidence. Many such cases have been described, in the majority of which a spastic condition was present throughout the disease, but in some, as in this case, the reflexes tended to diminish.

Over twenty years ago Pierret noted the co-existence of mental symptoms simulating general paralysis with tabes, especially of the cervical type. In such cases the delusional state tends to become systematised, and is less incoherent, variable, and demential than that