

*The Criminal.* By HAVELock ELLIS. Contemporary Science Series. W. Scott. London. 1890.

The author in his preface says: "This little book is an attempt to present to the English readers a critical summary of the results of the science now commonly called criminal anthropology. In other words, it deals briefly with the problems connected with the criminal as he is in himself, and as he becomes in contact with society; it also tries to indicate some of the practical social bearings of such studies." This is a very modest description of a most excellent endeavour to interest medical and legal students as well as philanthropists of all sorts in criminals as human beings of a special class. Mr. Ellis begins with a history of the work done and of the workers in this comparatively new science, and naturally. We join with him in his regret that though England was early in the field, of late she has lagged terribly behind, and has left all later researches to others.

The most fertile workers have been the Italians, who seem still to have the genius for law as well as for construction—they are the architects and the law-givers of the world.

We trust that among the members of our Association some will make use of the abundant means at their disposal, and try once more to place England among the leaders in investigating criminal anthropology. We shall not attempt to analyze the book under review, for it is so concise, handy, and cheap, that all interested in the subject should buy it and read it for themselves.

It points out what has been done, and by whom; it gives copious references to the authorities, and in methodical detail examines the results obtained, and impartially judges of their value.

It is judicial, not attributing too much to the tyranny of our organization, or neglecting the slightly aberrant types which sporadically occur among man as reversions to a lower type of development.

Composite and other photographs are given, and the plates with the types of criminal heads are very well worth study. We are not very much impressed, so far, with the results of composite photographs, and, perhaps from our want of knowledge, have never been able to appreciate their practical value. Some of the illustrations are more diagrammatic

than realistic, and are not artistic, but they serve their purpose.

The criminal is dissected and studied, the form and size of head, the peculiarities of features, and any special relationships which seem to exist between certain physical or physiognomical defects and certain criminal types are investigated. Moral, emotional, and intellectual peculiarities are recorded, and the important question of treatment is fairly faced. We have not yet reached the state of treating all crime as disease, nor have we reached Plato's ideal of destroying the noxious and incurable criminal; but both in America and Europe a strong feeling is spreading that there are certain physical or physiological criminals to whom short punishments are of no use; some who are and will ever remain irreclaimable criminals, and who should be permanently taken care of. We shall never be able to condemn a man because of his hang-dog look, but we may be able to advise the constant supervision of individuals who have sinned against society, and who are also physically defective. We strongly recommend this book to our readers as a satisfactory hand-book.

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*The Son of a Star, a Romance of the Second Century.* By BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON. Three Vols. London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1888. Ditto in one Volume. 1890.

This is an interesting book, and by no means an everyday novel or romance. The author likens it to a dream; "all that is said and done is sudden, abrupt, jerky, and more or less involved." This is true, and a dream of this kind, however interesting, would be rather disturbing. Tom Moore's heroine in "Rich and rare were the gems she wore" must have lived at the period which Dr. Richardson describes in Juverna—the island of Peace and Beauty, where there is neither wealth nor poverty, where the flowers and musical instruments make the heart gladder than wine, which is as unknown in the pure Juverna as the poisonous reptile which cannot live on the soil (Vol. ii., p. 261).

We cannot sketch even in outline the story which the author weaves, but it may be said that it opens with a