principles apparently. He uses a somewhat dangerous argument against alcohol, viz., that nature does not provide it. What does nature provide except milk, oysters, fruit, and pig-nuts that can be taken without some preparation, which, however simple and mechanical it may appear, must lead to chemical changes not more recondite than fermentation? And are we to believe that all that is provided by nature may be taken with safety? This is one of the grounds on which he does not disapprove of tobacco in moderation. Dr. Keith inveighs strongly, and we think righteously, against the enormous volume of drugs and preparations of drugs nowadays. We could have wished that he had included many of the so-called chemical foods and other devices for dodging nature, which used in bulk and in many cases on pseudo-scientific grounds do more harm, we believe, than the suspected articles which they are intended to replace.

We think that Dr. Keith's book will do good if it helps to pull the world ever so little to his way of thinking, but we feel quite sure that if the world came right over to him it would be but a poor place to live in. We cannot hold out any hope that he will bring our medico-psychological world to endorse the following: "The blood gets loaded with animal matters of which they (the kidneys) fail to relieve it, and these are deposited in various organs, in some in the form of fibrin, which by and by hardens and destroys more or less their substance and their functions. A very common form of evil arising in this way is called general paralysis. The symptoms and pathological changes vary infinitely, according to the part of the nerve-centres affected and the stage of the disease. I cannot recall a case which was not that of a previously healthy individual, and who lived freely."

Mental Physiology, especially in its Relations to Mental Disorders. By THEO. B. HYSLOP, M.D., Lecturer on Mental Diseases to St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, etc. Pp. 539. (J. and A. Churchill, London.) Price 18s.

In this book Dr. Hyslop's aim has been "to bring together some of the more prominent phenomena of the brain and of the mind, both in their normal and morbid aspects." He insists strongly on the necessity of distinguishing clearly between what is actually proved and known and what is merely theoretical. On the one hand there are

the facts which have been ascertained by the physical examination of brain structure and function (cerebral anatomy and physiology); on the other hand we have the phenomena of mind as studied subjectively (psychology). But while it is clear that "the outer world of objects and the physical executive nervous organism are essential to the manifestation of our inner states of consciousness," the present views of the nature of the connecting link, or causal relationship, between these two sets of phenomena are largely theoretical; and in examining them carefully we may find that our expression of them in words is a cloak for our ignorance rather than a statement of what has been definitely ascertained. Dr. Hyslop tries to map out the present extent of our actual knowledge.

After an introductory chapter, which deals with the general bearings of the subject, and gives a short account of the spiritualistic and materialistic theories of the relationship between mind and brain, Dr. Hyslop sketches the microscopical anatomy, chemistry, vascular supply, and lymphatic system of the brain. Two chapters deal with the scheme of the central nervous system (sensory paths and projection systems) and with the localisation of the mental faculties. Then taking up the psychological side, Dr. Hyslop discusses in succession sensation, perception, sensory perversions and hallucinations, and the different mental processes (attention, conception, judgment and memory); after which the feelings and emotions and the will, with their disorders, are dealt with. The last two chapters of the book review the factors of insanity, which Dr. Hyslop classifies in the first place as internal (such as inherited predisposition) and external (such as social environment); and in this section he refers at some length to the degeneration theories of Lombroso and others, and discusses the influence of the different periods of life, and of various bodily conditions and diseases, in producing mental disorder.

Throughout the book Dr. Hyslop's position is mainly that of a careful critic. It cannot be said that he brings forward much that is in itself actually new. Nevertheless his book is a most valuable and instructive one, and represents the outcome of much good work. It brings together in a condensed form the results of extensive and accurate reading in both the anatomico-physiological and purely psychological sides of the subject, and examines the views put forward by

leading writers in an independent and thoroughly fair spirit. Many of his readers will think that Dr. Hyslop is pessimistic, and urges almost too strongly the difficulty or impossibility of ever solving the question of the transition between nerve action and mental phenomena; and some of his conclusions will probably not command general acceptance. At the same time it is well to recognise the limits of our knowledge, and not to imagine that a theory giving a metaphorical explanation of what may take place constitutes knowledge of the real action. Dr. Hyslop has kept this steadily in view in the treatment of his subject. His book deserves to be carefully studied, and should find a place on the shelves of every asylum library.

Dégénérescence Sociale et Alcoolisme. Par le Docteur M. Legrain. Paris, 1895.

In this volume Dr. Legrain follows up his study of the heredity of alcoholism, published in 1889 under the title *Hérédité et Alcoolisme*, with a statistical account of epilepsy, hysteria, obsessions and other neuroses, and of more general abnormalities, which mark the degeneracy of the eight or nine hundred children of drunkards whom he has examined. The joint efforts, he claims, give a sufficiently complete account of the relations of alcoholism, in ancestry and in progeny, to heredity. And his point of view throughout is the social rather than the scientific. For Dr. Legrain is a temperance reformer as well as a mental physician.

Having learned so much, we are prepared for a study of the question in its social aspects, such as will appeal to the politician, the magistrate, and the citizen. Nor are we disappointed.

In the first part of his essay Dr. Legrain studies the march of degeneration in the progeny of drunkards. And in reading this section we are disposed to question some of his judgments, and to conclude that his generalisations are too sweeping and his outlook both narrow and superficial.

He handles a most satisfactory abundance of evidence. But he does not seem to appreciate the more recent expositions of the laws of heredity, and he occasionally falls into the old error of mistaking a symptom for a disease. He seems to regard the alcoholism of the patients too much in the light of an initial cause. And we are disposed to question the wisdom of tracing much of a family's degeneration