

availed themselves of these consultations during 1903. Interesting information is given by Dr. Poulard on ophthalmic troubles prevalent amongst the children, which he divides into (1) chronic conjunctivitis (with diplo-bacillus); (2) acute contagious conjunctivitis (with Weeks' bacillus); (3) granular conjunctivitis. The first form is common, though apt to be overlooked; the second was diagnosed in 83 cases; whilst 3 only of the third form were brought under medical notice. Vigilance on the part of the nurse, with observance of minute precautionary measures, was found here, as elsewhere, the only means of staying this very troublesome affection.

It would seem that 428 cases were under care and treatment at the Bicêtre at the end of 1903, of whom 63 are described as "pathological liars," and no less than 177 as onanists; 24 patients died during the year, and 93 were discharged from the "section"; 9 deaths were attributed to tubercle, mostly pulmonary, besides 7 who had other pulmonary diseases. We see no mention of open-air treatment having been tried in any of the tuberculous cases.

At the Fondation Vallée there were resident at the end of 1903, 236 girls, classified as epileptics, hysterics, and idiots or imbeciles; 6 deaths occurred and 20 were discharged. It would seem that tuberculous disease was almost twice as common among the girls as among the boys.

A valuable chapter is devoted to the teaching of speech to idiots and backward children, the exercises being described in full.

In the pathological portion we find the various forms of dwarfism discussed, and good results of thyroid medication are recorded in several cases, which are described in minute detail. An interesting account of the histological condition of the brain, etc., of a Mongolian imbecile is contributed by Dr. Oberthur, and the brain is pictured, showing very coarse and simple convolutions. Other chapters contain notes on autopsies in cases of infantile hemiplegia, of hydrocephalus with pseudo-porencephaly, and of epilepsy. There are numerous illustrations, including seventeen large-sized plates of abnormal brains.

G. E. S.

The Life of Sir Henry Vane, the Younger. By WILLIAM W. IRELAND.
London: Eveleigh Nash, 1905. 8vo., 513 pp.

Biography should theoretically be the particular domain of the psychologist. In practice this is rarely the case, and a work, therefore, by such a well-known psychologist as Dr. Ireland is of especial interest.

The life of Sir Henry Vane has the double interest of being associated with the foundation of the American Republic and of having been connected with the English Commonwealth period from beginning to end.

Dr. Ireland has well brought out the important part played in those historic events by Sir Henry Vane, and has given forcible character sketches not only of his protégé, but also of many of the leading actors, of this historic period.

Sir Henry Vane, *pace* Dr. Ireland, played very much more important

parts, in naval administration amongst others, than he has been generally credited with. Cromwell's achievements, on the contrary, have been greatly exaggerated, according to the author.

This diversity of view adds interest to a book that is thoroughly attractive from its clear and concise account of the events of this period, as well as for the clever psychologic sketches of the leading actors. We can confidently recommend it as worthy of attentive reading, and of a prominent place on the historic bookshelf. The pleasure of reading is enhanced by the excellence of the type.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Physiological Psychology.

The Psychology of Dreams. (*Amer. Journ. Psychol.*, Jan., 1905.)
Jewell, J. R.

This study is founded on a *questionnaire* sent out chiefly to Normal schools; more than 2000 dreams were received from some 800 people. The author believes that his results are based on a larger mass of data than any previous study of dreams. Puberty is found to work a considerable change in dreaming; before that epoch the events of daily life tend to be immediately reflected in dreams; afterwards the interval becomes much longer. Over 90 *per cent.* individuals have at some time walked or talked in their sleep, and 15 *per cent.* (all young women) frequently laugh or cry. Motor activity during sleep is, however, distinctively a childish characteristic, though it frequently persists into later life. Suggestion is very often efficacious in preventing undesired dreams. The confusion of dreams with real life is almost universal in childhood, and not uncommon in late life. So-called premonitory dreams are usually susceptible of a rational explanation. The influence of dreams upon real life is vastly greater than is usually supposed. Every mode in which the mind functions in the waking state may also occur in the sleeping state. The above and other conclusions are discussed and illustrated.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Nyctophobia [*La Nyctophobie chez les Enfants*]. (*Arch. de Psychol.*, Feb.—March, 1905.) Sanet, R.

The author of this paper, who is a professor in the Normal School of Dolores in the Argentine Republic, has studied "night terrors" in 519 children. Between the ages of 7 and 9, all children, boys and girls, were found to be afraid of night or of the dark; even the most courageous children were thus affected. The percentage of children with nyctophobia gradually diminishes after this age. For the whole school period (ages of 7 to 14) 140 out of 160 boys, and 340 out of 359 girls, experienced nyctophobia, sometimes associated with various other nocturnal phobias, but very rarely with any of a diurnal character. Sanet recognises a *crescendo* of phenomena in a child who is liable to the fear