

tion of physiological details, and of results of experiments which he certainly ought to have made himself acquainted with before he ventured to propound it. His training, as a lawyer, might have taught him that his duty, before coming to a conclusion, was to carefully collect and weigh all the facts; and this was a duty especially binding upon one who so often in this book censures men of science for their wilful neglect of facts. But we fear the Serjeant forgets altogether the sobriety of the lawyer when he comes forth in the character of a philosopher.

In the last few chapters of the book he enters into regions of speculation into which we cannot follow him—into speculations concerning the nature of the soul, its dwelling-place, and its destiny. No doubt these speculations will be of some interest to those who look upon Mr. Crookes and Mr. Varley as prophets, but we think that most men of science will continue to deserve the reproach of refusing to intermeddle with them.

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*Contributions to Mental Pathology.* By I. RAY, M.D. Boston : 1873.

Although with two exceptions the contents of this work have appeared in print, we welcome with pleasure their publication in one volume. Moreover, the recent notes to the articles as they originally appeared add to their value, and acquaint us with the matured and not likely to be changed opinions of this veteran alienist, so well known as the former superintendent of the Butler Hospital, and for his writings on Mental Disease, especially his "Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity." In his address, delivered on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the State Hospital for the Insane, at Danville, Pennsylvania, 1869, Dr. Ray gives an interesting sketch of the treatment of the insane in his own country, commencing with the year 1752, when the Pennsylvania Hospital was established, and exerted a very beneficial influence upon the action of other States. Coming to recent times (about 1838), Dr. Ray pays the following well-merited tribute to the philanthropic Miss Dix, whose unremitting exertions have done so much for the amelioration of the condition of the insane.

"Most fortunately, too, as if to confirm a favorite belief—that, when a great exigency arises, the right man or woman will be found ready to meet it, a young woman in Massachu-

setts, about this time, became deeply interested in the condition of the insane, and thenceforth devoted her time to the noble purpose of effecting its improvement. With this end in view, she visited the jails, prisons, and poor-houses in her native State, and subsequently in other States, that she might see for herself precisely what that condition was. No place was so distant, no circumstances so repulsive, no lack of welcome so obvious, as to deter her from the thorough performance of her mission. Neither the storms of winter, nor the heats of summer, could diminish the ardour of her zeal; and no kind of discouragement could prevent her from gauging exactly the dimensions of this particular form of human misery. Favored by that exquisite tact and happy address peculiar to her sex, she overcame obstacles that would have defied the ruder efforts of the other sex; and thus brought to light a mass of suffering that seemed more like an extravagant fiction than real unexaggerated truth. Thus prepared, she went before the Legislatures of the several States in which her inquiries were pursued, and in the name of humanity, implored them to put an end to practices that would shock even a barbarous people. This appeal was enforced, not by vague sentimentalisms about the softening influences of kindness, or the debasement produced by such harsh and heartless treatment, but by a multitude of cases given in all their appalling details. It is creditable to our people that this appeal was seldom made in vain, but was usually followed by an Act establishing a State Hospital for the insane."

Of two articles in this volume it may be said that they both bring out in bold relief the sound and enlightened views on moral insanity which their author has always maintained with so much force and ability. A ripe experience has only served to confirm Dr. Ray in his opinion of the importance of insisting upon the possible occurrence of emotional without marked intellectual disorder. While, again, it is no doctrine of his that "a man is irresponsible for any and every crime he may commit, or for any moral delinquency, simply because some of his progenitors were insane;" he believes that great importance should always be attached to this hereditary element when it appears in evidence in those cases in which criminal responsibility is the question at issue. On this subject some valuable remarks will be found in the essay on "The Causes of Insanity"; while in that on "Moral Insanity" the reader will find a lucid statement of the argu-

ments in favour of the doctrine. As he justly **observes**, if men are sometimes unable or unwilling to see the difference between simple depravity and moral insanity, and mistake the former for the latter, "it is unfortunate for them, no doubt; but the fact cannot weaken the doctrine itself." The teachings of psychology have, he considers, been counteracted "more by the misplaced use of a homely phrase than by any profound objection. To the common understanding it is no better than a contradiction in terms to say that a man has *lost his reason*—the old English equivalent of *insanity*—while his reason is confessedly untouched. This play upon words has stood unquestionably in the place of facts and arguments, and still serves the opponents of moral insanity as their great piece of resistance" (p. 97). He naturally expresses surprise that even among those who have had opportunities of observing the disease, men may be found who seem unable to appreciate the labours of Pinel, Prichard, Guislain, Bucknill, and others, to establish this doctrine, and "do not hesitate to hold up these men as believers in a doctrine destitute of foundation and dangerous to society." Lest some should regard it as a work of supererogation to enter into a detailed defence of a form of mental disorder which those most conversant with the insane believe to be as clearly settled as any other, Dr. Ray maintains that "when it is regarded as a work of superior wisdom, and of elevation above the foibles and crotchets of well-meaning, but simple-minded men, to scout at such results of faithful observation as happen to jostle the prejudices of the world, it becomes a duty to speak." A contribution to the "American Journal of Insanity" since this essay was printed renders any apology of this kind superfluous, and Dr. Ray's re-publication is all the more opportune as an antidote to the retrograde position assumed in the article referred to, the language, character, and tone of which rather befit the pulpit than the pages of a medical journal; in fact, we had to look again at the cover to be quite sure that we were reading the "American Journal of Insanity."

There are many other articles\* of great interest in this volume to which we had intended to refer, but the limits of time and space forbid us for the present proceeding further. Dr. Ray's reputation, however, in our, as well as in his own, country will doubtless induce many of our readers to procure

\* Especially those on the Illustrations of Insanity afforded by the writings of Shakespeare, Walter Scott, and Richardson.

the work for themselves. We can cordially commend those which we have not, as well as those which we have, brought under the notice of our readers, and trust that this volume may ere long be succeeded by another from the same able and experienced pen.

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*An Essay on the Physiology of the Eye.* By SALOM HENRY SALOM. Salom and Co., Regent Street. 1873.

In undertaking to investigate the theory of visual perception, the author of this essay set out with this maxim, that psychology is a science of observation, if not of experiment; that since we can observe the mind in connection with the body, we cannot hope to ascertain psychical laws, except as connected with physical phenomena. The doctrine which he upholds is, in the main, an extension of Berkeley's "Theory of Vision," from the perception of large areas—phenomena observable, to that of small areas—phenomena not observable. It may be briefly summarised thus:—

The eyeball is in a constant state of reflex or involuntary action; its action is due to the dynamic force of light acting through certain elements of the retina on the entire retina itself; the motions of the eyeball thus produced arouse, through the orbicular-ocular muscles, feelings of muscularity identical in kind, although diminutive in degree, with those excited when we voluntarily determine ocular direction; these small motions are precisely cognate with the larger one, considered by Berkeley, and similarly correspond with the other muscular exercises whereby a man born blind attains his knowledge of form and position; and thus, without any voluntary effort on our part, are we constantly aware of visual space properties.

It seems to us an exceedingly well-reasoned essay, and we regret that we are prevented on this occasion from giving, as we had intended to do, a summary of the author's arguments.