

of terror, on the other hand, were always found in persons living in a state of sexual repression. A neurotic heredity was only found in 12 per cent. of the cases ; this is a result, however, on which we cannot lay much stress. Nor can we attach very great importance to the fact (on which the author insists) that not one of his cases presented what may be called a normal sexual life : we cannot at present speak very positively about abnormal sexuality until we know more than we yet know regarding the facts of normal sexual life.

The author thus takes what we cannot at present but regard as a very extreme position concerning the importance of sexual irregularities and sexual repression in causing nervous disorders. He has, however, carried out his inquiry in a commendable manner, and we may hope that his results will lead to further investigations in this difficult but important field.

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*The Subconscious Self and its Relation to Education and Health.* By LOUIS WALDSTEIN, M.D. London: Grant Richards, 1897. Pp. 171, small 8vo.

This book (the English edition of a work printed in America) is a literary essay rather than a scientific study. Though many authors are named or quoted, there is not a single definite reference to literature throughout. There are no foot-notes, table of contents, or index ; and while interesting original experiments are briefly described, they are never detailed with the precision demanded by a scientific reader.

It is evident, however, that the author possesses a competent scientific knowledge of his subject, and he conveys his information and ideas to the reader in a pleasant and skilful literary style, a well-bred style that is content to touch on every subject in the slightest and sketchiest way, never staying to drive home an argument with precision and energy. Among the subjects thus lightly touched on are genius, the artistic impulse, dreams, hallucinations, coloured hearing, suggestion, hysteria, hypnotism, &c. The general tendency of the essay is to minimise the influence of heredity in explaining peculiarities and defects of nervous organisation, and to dwell on the influence of early impressions as of paramount importance ; while the author further points out that this view enables us more easily to treat and to prevent such conditions. Dr. Waldstein is clearly on safe ground, though he apparently fails to recognise that the factor of heredity

must still be taken into consideration, and pushes his argument too far,—as when he remarks that so great is the force of early impressions that modern inventions like the telephone and the phonograph as yet play no part in the hallucinations of the insane.

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*L'Année Sociologique.* Publiée sous la Direction d'Émile Durkheim. Paris: Alcan, 1898. Pp. 563. Price 10 fr.

With this volume Prof. Durkheim of Bordeaux, whose important study of suicide we recently noticed, has inaugurated a series in which it is proposed to do for sociological studies what *L'Année Psychologique* is doing for psychological studies. As sociology in the modern sense is concerned with many matters which are of interest to psychologists, and as Prof. Durkheim is one of the few sociologists whose methods are truly scientific, it seems worth while to call attention here to this new and valuable undertaking.

Like M. Binet's year-book, which it resembles in appearance, the volume consists of memoirs and analyses, although at present there is no full bibliography. The memoirs are wisely limited to two, but one of these at least—Prof. Durkheim's study of the origins of the prohibition of incest—is of great interest and value. The author here traces the prohibition of incest back to totemism, to the primitive custom of exogamy and the condemnation of marriage within the clan. He shows how this custom led to a profound antagonism between sexual passion and the duties of kinship, which antagonism has survived long after the decay of exogamy. Incidentally also he shows how totemism led to blood being regarded as a sacred thing, and hence, in consequence of the phenomena of menstruation, to the view of women as possessing magic virtues of good or bad influence. Thus the almost instinctive separation of the sexes that prevails to-day, and the reverence of women enshrined in our literature and art, may be traced back, link by link, to the primitive phenomena of social organisation and the conception of taboo.

The analyses of current literature are arranged in sections which include a very thorough account of recent work regarding various aspects of religion (primitive beliefs, domestic cults, beliefs regarding the dead, folk-lore, ritual, myths, monachism, &c.), the family, marriage, law and morals, punishment, social organisation, demography, &c. A large