

Such an astounding failure to recognise facts at once suggests the inquiry "are things what they seem," or whether to the law, as to Jowett, what it "does not know is not knowledge." Such an attitude would be amusing but for the serious fact that the lives of human beings hang on this dictum. This decision, however, will be quoted increasingly in such cases unless some action can be taken, by an outside influence, to bring the legal view into accordance with the facts of everyday life.

The Medico-Psychological Association, in this and some similar matters, would be performing an appropriate function in drawing the attention of the Lord Chancellor to the actual facts. If that functionary cannot be brought to move, it is a question whether the Legislature should not be appealed to with a view of stimulating or directing the legal mind.

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*Asylum Officers' Superannuation Bill.*

This Bill passed its second reading without discussion late on Thursday night, the 1st inst., and on the motion of Sir William Collins was referred to a Select Committee.

A copy of the Bill appears in this number of the Journal (see p. 393), and appended thereto are the amendments which have been suggested at a special meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Medico-Psychological Association.

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**Part II.—Reviews.**

*Mental Pathology and Normal Psychology.* By GUSTAV STÖRRING, Dr. Phil. et Med. Translated by Thomas Loveday, M.A. London: Swan Sonnenschein and Co. 1907. Pp. 298.

This work consists of a series of twenty-five lectures delivered originally by Prof. Störring at the University of Leipzig. The particular purpose of these lectures is to trace the significance of mental pathology in the elucidation of various problems in normal psychology, and they are therefore representative of a method of investigation which is essentially of recent development, and which promises to be of the greatest utility. It is being increasingly recognised that no arbitrary distinction can be drawn between the phenomena of normal and abnormal psychology, and that it is necessary for the psychologist and psychiatrist to work in combination if progress is to be made.

It is certainly true that mental pathologists have been far more successful in the last few years in explaining the principles which actuate normal conduct and thought than have normal psychologists who have approached the subject from a more academic standpoint. One has only to refer to the work of such investigators as Janet, Freud, Jung, and Morton Prince to demonstrate the truth of this contention. As the author states in his first lecture, when ascertaining the normal function of bodily organs we are not content in medicine with mere observation and experiment; the pathology of the organ is an indispensable assistance. In the same way in ascertaining normal *mental* functions, mere observation should be supplemented not only by experiments which we make, but also by those which *nature* makes for us, that is, by pathological cases.

The second lecture is devoted to a discussion of the various aspects of feeling. The Lange-James theory of emotions which reduces them to nothing but the sensations of bodily changes is criticised at length. The writer shows that while these sensations are essential constituents of an emotion, yet these themselves have an affective tone which is included in the complex state of consciousness comprising the emotion. These affective elements, which are incapable of further analysis are, qualitatively different from sensations, and cannot be reduced to them.

The pages devoted to hallucinations contain a *résumé* of the existing views in regard to this complex subject, and include much that is original and instructive. Especial stress is laid on the influence of affective-conative conditions as a predisposing factor of hallucinations and in the determination of their particular content. Ideas may obtain sufficient intensity to acquire the characters of percepts without losing their subjectivity. Pseudo-hallucinations have this characteristic. To attain a truly objective nature the intensified images must appear in definite position in perceived space, and exhibit a constant dependence upon movements of the sense organ and the whole body. Such a condition can only be brought about by fusion of the intensified idea with some indefinite sense impression. In illusions the sense impression is more definite, and it fuses with an ideal content because of its similarity, and thus receives a subjective supplementation which nevertheless seems objective to the subject.

Three chapters are occupied by a consideration of aphasia. The subject is fully discussed, but unfortunately loses some of its value owing to the fact that since the lectures were delivered the older views have been largely revolutionised by more recent researches. To some extent this criticism applies to other portions of the book. It is now several years since the lectures were originally given, and much that is new has since appeared.

The author devotes some attention to states of mental fog as manifested in epilepsy, and lays especial stress on changes in organic sensibility in the production of amnesic conditions. The amnesias, anæsthesias, and disintegrations of the personality occurring in hysteria are fully dealt with. The theory of double consciousness which is adopted to render these phenomena intelligible, the author finds himself entirely unable to accept, and criticises the doctrine of the subconscious

at some length. We do not find the arguments which the author employs to confute the hypothesis at all cogent.

In dealing with the genesis of imperative ideas considerable stress is laid on the importance of emotional factors. One misses, however, any reference to the antecedent psychasthenic state which Janet considers an essential condition in the production of obsessions.

The author's views in respect to delusional states are of considerable interest, and repay careful study. He attaches paramount importance to the influence of the affective life in the production of insane ideas. All recent psychology tends to accentuate the importance of this factor in both normal and abnormal states of mind, and the older conception of a so-called primary intellectual disorder is now almost universally recognised as being contrary to all experience.

The whole book is abundantly illustrated by references to actual cases, a feature which considerably enhances the value of the conclusions which are drawn. It contains much that is original and suggestive, and brings together a number of observations which were previously isolated and scattered.

Possibly owing to the difficulties of translation, which are very considerable in a work of this type, one finds it at times difficult to follow some portions, and the style is somewhat pedantic.

Its many features of interest, however, render it worthy of careful study.

H. DEVINE.

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*Syphilis and the Nervous System* [*Syphilis und Nervensystem*]. By Dr. MAX NONNE, Senior Physician to the General Hospital, Hamburg-Eppendorf. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Pp. xviii—700. 8vo. Berlin: S. Karger, 1909.

The first edition of this work, based upon lectures delivered in 1899, 1900, and 1901, was published in November, 1901, and was reviewed in the *Journal of Mental Science* in the following year.

In the preface to the new edition, Nonne remarks that in the six years that have elapsed since the first publication of the book, numerous and important additions have been made to our knowledge of syphilis; and no small proportion of these relate especially to his chosen subject, syphilis and the nervous system. Since the new century began the *Spirochæte pallida* has been discovered; the same period has witnessed the utilisation of cyto-diagnostic methods and of the chemical examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid in cases of tabes, general paralysis, etc.; finally, within the last year or two, has come the application by Wassermann and Neisser of sero-diagnostic methods (*die Komplement-Ablenkungs-Methode*) to the diagnosis of syphilis. Various other matters in respect of which the new edition marks an advance in our knowledge will be mentioned in the course of this review. In the dedication of the work there is naturally no change. This edition is inscribed, like the first, to Wilhelm Erb; and it is an admirable tribute to one of the great founders of modern neurology.

The new edition contains 640 pages of text, in addition to an elaborate bibliography and indexes. There are nearly 100 illustrations