

to the discredit of Irish indifference. Neither of these qualities is likely to be much longer subjected to the severe strain which the relations of the Board of Control and the Boards of Governors to each other involved.

The memoranda of inspection made at the various district asylums contain much that is interesting and that seems to show much activity on the part of medical officers. We note a strongly personal tone in these memoranda. Eighteen years ago or so we noted, in dealing with the Inspectors' Reports of inspection, that those gentlemen always spoke in the first person singular, and we then commended the Scotch Commissioners for eschewing this practice even though they do not hunt in couples after the English fashion. Though the *personnel* of the Irish Commission has changed, the custom we refer to remains. Even where the matter of these memoranda is not, as in some cases, distinctly suggestive of controversy, the manner is personal to a degree that is unusual in official reports, and is perhaps calculated to deprive of their due weight the carefully considered utterances of the Inspectors. At the same time it is right to say that the reports on individual asylums and their officers are frequently kindly and appreciative.

L'Année Psychologique. Publiée par M. ALFRED BINET.
Paris: Schleicher Frères, 1897. Pp. 825. Price 15 fr.

The title-page of the third issue of this valuable year-book shows that various alterations have taken place since the previous issue. Prof. Binet is now nominally, as he has been virtually throughout, at the head of the undertaking; M. Victor Henri, as his chief assistant, is editorial secretary, and the publisher has been changed. There are also certain alterations in the work itself. The volume is smaller by 200 pages than the previous volume, the diminution being entirely accounted for by the decreased space given to original memoirs, a section of the work to which we alluded last year as the least essential to such a year-book. The other change is less satisfactory; morbid and abnormal psychology receive far less attention in this than in the second volume; there may be adequate reason for this discrepancy, but it certainly seems to render the work less valuable, not only to the medical, but also to the purely psychological student, both of whom need to recognise the intimate

relationship between the normal and the abnormal in psychology. At the same time, however, abnormal psychology is by no means wholly banished from the volume. On the whole the work is carried out with all the care and thoroughness which we have now learnt to expect from its accomplished editors, and Mr. Farrand and Mr. Warren are again responsible for the admirable bibliography of 120 pages.

The first of the original memoirs is a short paper by Prof. Ribot, on the Abstraction of Emotions; it is the complement to the chapter in *Psychology of the Emotions* on the Emotional Memory which the author regards as the first stage in the abstraction of emotions, and incidentally there is an interesting analysis of the method of procedure of the symbolist school of poets. This is followed by an experimental study by Binet and Courtier, on the diurnal changes in the form of the capillary pulse, in which it is shown that without exception the influence of meals is translated into an augmentation of the capillary pulse or an accentuation of diastole, independently of temperature, and that whatever accidental variations may be due to exercise, emotion, intellectual work, fatigue, etc., a regular rhythm still persists. This study is the first of a series by the same authors, on the psychological aspects of the circulation; in the next and following memoirs the influence of muscular and intellectual work on the capillary pulse is investigated. The idea of an antagonism between the circulation in the brain and that in the limbs is rejected (as it is also by Mosso, who formerly propounded it), and it is concluded that a short and energetic intellectual effort produces functional excitation, vaso-constriction, acceleration of heart and respiration, followed by slight slackening of these functions, and in some subjects diminished diastole; while intellectual effort, prolonged for several hours with relative immobility of the body, produces slowing of the heart and diminished circulation in the peripheral capillaries. The last and longest of this series of studies is on the influence of the emotional life on the heart, respiration, and capillary circulation. It is not easy to summarise briefly the conclusions of this interesting series of experiments; it is shown that all the emotions are really stimulants (though pain to a much less extent than, for instance, fear), producing an acceleration of respiration and of the heart, and provoking vaso-constriction, the effects increasing with the intensity of the emotion. In a few rare cases emotions of pain and sadness have produced slight slowing

of the heart (it must be remembered that we are dealing only with short, sudden emotions in healthy persons); and there is some reason to believe that the form of the capillary pulse changes with the quality of the emotion, "which may some day permit a classification of the emotions according to their physiological effects on the form of the pulse." A detailed investigation into the physiological effects of music on a single subject is embodied in this study. The following study, by Binet and Vaschide, deals with the influence of intellectual work, emotion, and physical work upon the blood pressure, investigated by means of Mosso's sphygmomanometer, which the writer considers of great value; it is shown that all these influences are stimulants of the nervous system, physical work being the most intense, and intellectual work the least intense stimulant. In a subsequent memoir, V. and C. Henri, working on the answers to a *questionnaire* concerning the earliest recollections of childhood, find that the third year is the chief epoch for such recollections, that they are far more often visual than auditory, and that when they are very trivial it has often happened that the really serious emotions, associated with the visual reminiscence, have been forgotten. The following memoirs are by Vaschide, on the Localisation of Memories; by V. Henri, on the Localisation of Tactile Sensations and Aristotle's Experiment; by the same writer, on Psychic and Physical Work and the Factors Involved, with special reference to the labours of Kraepelin and his school; and by Binet, on the "Paradox of Diderot," in which he shows by investigating the experiences of the leading actors at the Comédie Française, that emotion plays a real part in the actor's work; and, finally, a study by Binet, founded on the descriptions of the same photograph, furnished by a number of children and noting the various psychological types revealed by such descriptions.

L'Evolution des Idées Générales. Par TH. RIBOT. Paris: Alcan. 1897. Pp. 260. Price 5 fr.

The present volume follows closely after the same author's *Psychology of the Emotions*, and while it shows Prof. Ribot's customary ability and erudition in expounding and simplifying psychological problems, it is much less interesting than that volume. The psychology of the emotions opens up so many difficult and fascinating problems, affecting every part