

(3) obsessional suicide, and (4) automatic or impulsive suicide. In all these groups there is either no motive at all, or a purely imaginary motive, and the author argues that it is an abuse of words to attempt to thrust into these insane classes a suicide which has its motive in real and reasonable grounds. Even Esquirol, he points out, admitted certain exceptions, and the door once opened it is difficult to close it. But granting that suicide is not necessarily a form of insanity, it may be asked, do not other slighter psychopathic conditions, such as neurasthenia, play a part in producing it? Professor Durkheim admits that a general neuropathic or neurasthenic state—which he describes very graphically—presents the psychological type most frequently associated with suicide, but with that admission the facts are still not accounted for; if suicides are in ratio with the general neuropathic tendency, then, since there are by accumulation a greater number of insane women than of insane men, suicide should be commoner among women. Again, the Jews, who are specially liable to insanity and other nervous affections, rarely commit suicide, and there is great difference in different countries and among different religious communities. The countries where there are fewest insane are, indeed, on the whole, those where there are most suicides—Morselli's contrary conclusion, it is pointed out, being due to mixing up idiots and the insane. The suicide rate has therefore no definite relationship to the tendency to insanity, nor, by induction, to a neuropathic diathesis, and so vague an influence cannot be accepted as completely accounting for so definite a social fact as the suicide rate. In a similar manner the author deals with the alleged influence of alcohol, and by the help of four maps of France comparing the incidence in the different departments of suicide, of the consumption of alcohol, of crime due to alcohol and of alcoholic insanity, he shows that there is no tendency to coincidence. The conclusion of this interesting discussion is that while degenerescence, in its various forms, constitutes a soil eminently suitable for the action of the causes which determine a man to kill himself, it is not itself one of those causes.

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*Leitfaden der physiologischen Psychologie.* Von Professor Dr. TH. ZIEHEN. 4th edition, with 23 figures. Jena: Fischer, 1898. Pp. 263. Price 5 mk.

In reviewing the English translation of this introduction

to physiological psychology some years ago, we pointed out its value for the English reader as due in part to the fact that Professor Ziehen works along familiar English associational lines, instead of following Wundt, and in part to the fact that, as an alienist who was impelled by the study of abnormal psychology to investigate normal psychology, the author is specially familiar with the needs of the alienist.

Various works on psychology, both original and translated, have appeared in English since then. If we are to judge by the output there must, indeed, be a special demand for such works at the present time; but it cannot be said that Professor Ziehen's work has lost its value. It must, indeed, be said that he is a very cautious, almost an old-fashioned guide; but notwithstanding the activity with which psychologists are now following up many lines of detailed research, it cannot be claimed that on the larger issues they have yet reached any very complete unanimity, so that the most reliable guide is not necessarily the guide who is most ready to follow up the newest paths. Professor Ziehen has, however, as his foot notes show, made some attempt to keep up with recent literature, and he has, in revising the chapter on visual sensations, obtained the assistance of Professor A. König with reference to physiological optics. This fourth edition of his work, in its much enlarged form, may be cordially recommended as a reasonably clear and intelligible statement of physiological psychology on an empiric and associational basis.

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*Uric Acid as a Factor in the Causation of Disease.* By ALEXANDER HAIG, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. 4th edition, with 65 illustrations. London: Churchill, 1897. 8vo, pp. 698. Price 12s. 6d.

When Dr. Haig's book first appeared in 1892, we called attention to the remarkable character and interest of this "contribution" (as the author now terms it on the title-page) "to the pathology of high blood-pressure, headache, epilepsy, mental depression, paroxysmal hæmoglobinuria and anæmia, Bright's disease, diabetes, gout, rheumatism, and other disorders." Since 1892 Dr. Haig has greatly developed and elaborated his main thesis, extending or guarding his positions at many points. The book has doubled in size, and the interest and variety of its contents are greatly increased.

It cannot, however, yet be said that the field Dr. Haig