Notes on Books.

Leitfaden der Physiologischen Psychologie. By Professor TH. ZIEHEN. Dritte Auflage. Jena: G. Fischer. 1896. Pp. 238.

In the second edition of Professor Ziehen's well-known book there was a new chapter on the emotions and ideational feeling-tone. In this third edition there is little new beyond changes and additions suggested by recent literature. The general plan of the book is unaltered, and it is characterised by the special attention paid to those parts of the subject which stand in relation to mental pathology.

Cosmic Ethics, a Mathematical Theory of Evolution. By W. CAVE THOMAS, F.S.S. Pp. 22 and 296. Price 10s. 6d. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1896.

Most old doctrines are republished every few years. It is not surprising therefore that the writer of *Cosmic Ethics* should proclaim the golden mean as the key to all science. The book, however, in spite of its claim to be a mathematical theory of evolution, supplies nothing new in support of a theory now generally regarded as exploded.

Obviously the quantity of most things lies somewhere between something and something else; but to determine two extremes and a law of position between them is a roundabout method of finding it. The more useful way of looking at the fact is that things require a quantitative adaptation to environment, and that they may fail in this by excess or defect. The point of adjustment may of course be called the "mean," but the term is generally inappropriate and sometimes quite misleading. The fault of some books, for example, is not that they are too long or too short, but that they are written at all!

Die Autonomie der Moral mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Morallehre Immanuel Kants. By Kr. BIECH REICHENWALD AARS, of Kristiania. Leipzig : Leopold Voss, 1896. Pp. 123. Price M. 2.

This is a clear and painstaking little work in two parts. It shows the sovereignty of reason in the sphere of morals, which, according to the author, demonstrates the true nature and only possible proof of liberty, the power which man has, as possessed of reason, to give law to himself. The volume has many references to modern psychology and ethics, and the notes interpolated in the text must prove of much value to German readers of Kant.

Die Freiheitshlehre bei Kant und Schopenhauer. By Dr. DAVID NEUMARK. Leipzig: Leopold Voss, 1896. Pp. 90. Price M. 2.

This is an attempt to harmonise the subjective and the objective, and to bring these into a common bond of connection through mental activity. It dwells upon the two problems of free will

580