

physical processes. The author throughout this volume rejects the idea of any unknown influence, personality, or soul, and is inclined to brush it aside as a mere metaphysical idea. We are not convinced of the correctness of this attitude and refrain from discussing the religious questions involved in this and subsequent passages.

The remarks of the author on p. 190 relating to the religious instincts in adolescence are clear, clever, and emphatic, but we are unable to follow him when he lays down the dictum that sex must be eliminated from the religious instinct.

The fourth chapter lays down the general principles to be observed in mental discipline, and, as the author divides the age periods of their hygienic value, there is, of necessity, some repetition, as such a classification implies a consequent overlapping. The author makes full use of the spontaneity of childhood, and emphasises the functional union of all sensory impressions in the attention. His aim throughout is to encourage brain-impressions, which can be made use of afterwards, and the proper cultivation of the senses with a due deliberation—one thing at a time, as there is a need to establish associations. The control of motor co-ordination by exercise and play, the association of mental impressions for intellectual purposes, and the establishing of proper and correct habits in nerve pathways are fully entered upon. The whole volume throughout is delightful reading, and it is a book that should be of great help to mothers and teachers. At the end there are concluding chapters upon the decadent period of life, into which are condensed the wisdom of Shakespeare and Cicero. The price of a happy old age is "eternal vigilance" in youth, and the secret of a happy youth is occupation, which will afford the happiest reflections for declining years. There is no doubt that, even with the best intentions, the climacteric for both sexes is a period of uneasiness, and the advice to cultivate "hobbies" deserves more serious attention than it obtains. A time comes when special pursuits fail, but the man with many "mental facets" finds years of joyous repose towards the end of his journey. One fact insisted upon by Dr. Clouston is that grandparents find joy in their grandchildren, and we know the evil effect upon the mind through the seclusion of old people in almshouses. In the secluded life of eleemosynary solitude there are no mental stimuli present to rouse the decadent faculties into response, and an old-age pension, whatever else it may effect, will tend to restore to the aged their natural life and surroundings. In our admiration for this volume, with its direct message clearly and physiologically expressed, we are convinced of universal sympathy, and it would not be wide of the mark to state that the distinguished author has never produced a better work.

Éléments de Médecine Mentale appliqués à l'Étude du Droit (Cours professé à la Faculté de Droit en 1905). Par le Docteur LEGRAIN, avec Préface de M. GARÇON. Paris: Arthur Rousseau, 1906. Pp. xxvi, 450. Price 10 francs.

The lectures on mental diseases which Dr. Legrain has published in this volume, apart from their intrinsic value, are noteworthy from the

circumstances of their origin. They were delivered during the session of 1905 to the students of the Paris Faculty of Law as a *cours libre*, under the auspices of the Council of the University, and in their book form they receive a further mark of official recognition in a foreword of rather timid approval from the Professor of Criminal Jurisprudence. Their appearance is therefore an interesting sign that the permeation of the legal mind by the modern spirit has commenced—at all events amongst our neighbours—and that it is beginning to be realised that some acquaintance with the physiology and pathology of mind is desirable in those whose avocations require them to estimate the quality and the motives of diseased conduct.

The object which the author has set before himself in these lectures is not so much to enlighten his hearers on those specific problems, regarding which the medico-legal expert is ordinarily called on to give evidence, as to familiarise them with the aspect under which conduct and thought appear to the physician who has to deal with their aberrations in crime and in insanity. The volume is not, therefore, a treatise on legal psychiatry in the usual sense of such a title, but is rather, as the author himself defines it, an examination of the criminal law in the light of medical science. This special aim—to bring home to a legal audience facts and assumptions new to them but commonplace to the alienist—implies, of course, that the book has no pretention to novelty of matter; but, none the less, Dr. Legrain has contrived to deal with his subject in so fresh and original a manner, and has indicated so many suggestive lines of thought, that the work, in addition to fulfilling its proper end, as it most admirably does, will appeal also to the wider circle of readers, lay and medical, who are interested in the new tendencies in criminology.

The author's chief concern being, as we have indicated above, to inculcate the spirit and method of inductive science as opposed to the spirit and method of *à priori* reasoning, he naturally lays particular stress on the clinical facts most subversive of those preconceived ideas regarding the freedom of the will and the unity and stability of the ego which underlie the old doctrines of crime and punishment. In the earlier lectures, dealing with the growth, the changes, and the decay of the personality, he seeks his illustrations of the instability of the ego in the diseased states, such as the *délire chronique* of Magnan, where, by a process of slow evolution, a new personality is gradually built up, or in the phenomena of hallucinatory insanity, where the changes in the sense elements of consciousness dominate thought and action, or, again, in the classic observations of multiple personality. From this introductory matter he then passes to the consideration of the *rôle* of the subconscious mind, to which, under its various aspects, the remainder of the volume is devoted. The emergence of the subconscious in dreams, in artistic inspiration, and in other normal phenomena is briefly referred to, and a description is given at somewhat greater length of its influence in recurrent insanity. In this connection the author suggests a very interesting parallel between this category of mental disease and certain forms of criminal recidivism. As we observe in some cases of insanity, especially in alcoholic subjects, that a delirium of practically identical content will repeat itself in successive attacks, vanishing completely

during the sane intervals, so we meet with criminals, who, time after time, in a stereotyped way, will commit the same offence. In one case it is a disorder of thought, in the other a disorder of conduct, that rises suddenly out of the subconscious; it seems natural to assume that in both cases the psychological mechanism must be very similar. And the author would see further evidence of this kinship in the familiar cases where the two forms of disorder seem to alternate in the same individual, who then, according as his disease is more manifest in the sphere of thought or in the sphere of conduct, will find his way at one time to the lunatic asylum, at another to the prison.

In these cases of what he terms *délires à éclipse* and *délits à éclipse*, there is a subconscious automatism: in the dream-state of the epileptic, the absinthe drinker, and the alcoholic, the mechanism is the same, save that the automatism is unconscious; and it is the same also in the obsessions of the hereditary degenerate, with the sole difference that here the automatism is fully conscious and is accompanied by a lucid but powerless intelligence. Even the moral defective may be looked at in the same light, and viewed as an "aconscious automaton."

What, then, is the bearing of these facts on the problem that the criminal presents to society? If the personality is thus in a perpetual flux, where the dominant current at any moment may be decided by such incalculable forces working in the subconscious, what becomes of free will and responsibility, and how is their abrogation to be reconciled with the safety of the community? To these questions the author gives only a general reply, indicating merely the direction in which the solution of the problem is to be sought, but not entering into the details of the revolutionary changes which his doctrines would demand. The effect of slight indefiniteness which is thus left is possibly intentional, for it is not difficult to imagine that more than once in the course of these lectures the staid and respectable authorities of the *École de Droit* must have felt considerably astonished at their own audacity in admitting such heretical teaching at all, and that towards the end a little dilution of the new wine was necessary lest the old bottles should burst.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

A New Journal of Legal Psychiatry.

The appearance of the *Revue de Médecine Légale Psychiatrique et d'Anthropologie Criminelle* is an interesting indication of the increasing realisation in scientific circles in France of the importance of the medical aspects of criminology. The journal, which is published in connection with *L'Encephale*, is to appear every two months, the contents of each number being arranged under the following heads: (1) Original memoirs; (2) medico-legal observations; (3) judicial review; (4) bibliography and analysis of current literature; (5) proceedings of learned societies; and (6) medico-legal generalities. The editor in chief is M. Antheaume, of Charenton, and the list of collaborators includes the names of a large number of distinguished alienists and neurologists.

The first number (February, 1906), contains, amongst other interesting matter, a paper by Dr. Regis, on "Traumatic Neurasthenia in the Sub-