

rhythmical movements. They condemned the name katatonia, and were of the opinion that "katatonic melancholia" was the term best applied to this symptom-complex.

This by no means exhausts the papers of interest, and in conclusion we must congratulate the Medico-Psychological Association on the success of its annual meeting, and recommend the perusal of this volume to our readers.

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*Psychologie de l'Instinct sexuel.* Par le Dr. JOANNY ROUX. Paris: Baillière, 1899, pp. 96, price 1'50 fr.

This little volume, which appears in the useful series of *Actualités médicales*, and is written by an assistant medical officer in the Lyons Asylum, has an importance out of proportion to its size. It is not only a very condensed statement and thoughtful discussion of the main points in normal sexual psychology; its chief significance lies in the fact that here, for the first time in a series of general medical hand-books, it has been found possible and desirable to include a study of the sexual instinct. It can scarcely be said that Dr. Roux's scientific equipment, and knowledge of the now enormous literature of his subject, are adequate to the task he has undertaken. But at least he approaches the question in a thoroughly scientific manner, and his tone is excellent. When a French writer deals with sexual questions, even from the medical standpoint, there is a temptation to allow the *esprit gaulois* to intrude, and to produce a certain levity. Dr. Roux, with a few lapses, fairly succeeds in holding this Gallic tendency in check; and even if his little book were less well done than it is, he would thus have helped forward the study of the subject he deals with.

The first point discussed is the organic peripheral basis of the sexual instinct. After considering the normal phenomena of sexual development, and the results of castration in animals, men, and women, together with the influence of the menopause, the author decides that while the sensations arising from the genital organs are of the highest importance in the normal evolution of the sexual instinct, they are not indispensable for its appearances; that there is something else in the sexual need besides the cry of an organ to function, or the craving of seminal vesicles to be emptied. What is that something else? The root of the sexual impulses, the author answers, lies in the deepest parts of our organism; we love with our whole body; the source of sexual desire is to be found in the anatomical elements of the body, and sexual *hunger* is to be distinguished from sexual *appetite*, the latter alone being a definite and conscious impulse. The author does not accept the theory of Brown-Séquard, that internal secretions play a part in constituting the sexual impulse. In the same way he criticises and rejects the various attempts to localise a sexual centre in the brain. The phenomena of sexuality, he points out, are really cortical reflexes. We only have to ascertain at what point the centripetal part of the reflex enters the cortex, and at what point the

centrifugal part emerges ; the general point of arrival he places where Flechsig places that of the nerves of general sensibility, at the Rolandic convolutions.

Having reached the cortex, the nervous impression determines in the first place a conscious sensation, in the second place a series of intra-cortical associations. The way is thus opened to a discussion of the sexual emotions as well as of the part played by the various sensations—visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory—in the constitution of the sexual impulse, the consideration of pathological aberrations being throughout excluded. The concluding sections deal with sexual choice (briefly traced from the infusorians upwards), chastity, modesty, &c. The author writes so concisely throughout that it is impossible to summarise his discussions of the various points that arise. On the whole, this little book may be commended to those who desire a brief and readable, if perhaps somewhat superficial account of the present state of knowledge and opinion in the field of normal sexual psychology.

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*The Sexual Instinct and its Morbid Manifestations from the Double Standpoint of Jurisprudence and Psychiatry.* By B. TARNOWSKY. Translated by W. C. COSTELLO, Ph.D., and ALFRED ALLINSON, M.A. Paris: Carrington, 1898, pp. 239, price 7s. 6d.

This work, which first appeared in Russian in 1885, and immediately afterwards in German, was one of the earliest attempts to deal in a comparatively scientific manner with perversions of the sexual instinct. Inspired by the humane instincts of his race, Professor Tarnowsky was one of those who first effectively demonstrated that pederasty is not merely the result of insatiable licentiousness, nor, as Tardieu and other medico-legists had hitherto usually assumed, a mere matter for local physical investigation, but that it is frequently a condition in which congenital taint and mental disorder are important factors. Vice, he concluded, is in its most violent manifestations the symptom of a morbid state, exhibiting a certain deadening of the feelings, with an imperfect equilibrium of the nervous system, favouring the development of pronounced mental disease and weakness of intellect; and he pleaded, with Michelet, that jurisprudence must become a medical science, based on physiological facts.

But our knowledge has progressed considerably in the brief interval of fifteen years that has elapsed since Tarnowsky wrote. The larger public may remain unconvinced, but to the small circle to whom such books are alone properly addressed this work now seems somewhat vague, crude, and old-fashioned. It cannot for a moment be compared with so admirable a treatise as Moll's. We may admit that it once played an important historical part in bringing the aberrations of the sexual instinct into the sphere of medical science; we can by no means accept it as an adequate modern text-book.

The publisher and the translators have sought to do their best for