

The concluding chapter of the work is entitled "The Monistic Doctrine of the Soul." Here the theory is still further insisted upon that to psychical indications in man we must look for the field of future evolution. Their abnormal functions must be studied from the Darwinian point of view. By a very different route our author thus arrives at the same point as that from which Romanes starts, another illustration of the truth that extremes meet.

Here we must leave the author of a book which is sufficiently suggestive, but is deficient in digestive power in regard to psycho-physical phenomena.

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*Old Age: The results of information received respecting nearly nine hundred persons who had attained the age of eighty years, including seventy-four centenarians.* By GEORGE MURRAY HUMPHRY, M.D., F.R.S. Cambridge: Macmillan and Bowes, 1889.

Among the various satisfactory results of the "Collective Investigation Committee" the book now under review is second to none in interest. The amount of labour expended upon the work must have been very great indeed. Professor Humphry is to be congratulated on the completion of his labour, and the medical profession, as also the general community, are to be also congratulated on the mass of information placed at their disposal, analyzed and digested as it has been by the author. The relation of old age to psychology is a very close one. When we turn to the chapter which treats of maladies of aged persons based upon the examination of reports upon 824 persons between 80 and 100 (340 men and 382 women between 80 and 90, and 92 men and 110 women between 90 and 100), we find under "brain affections" that surprise is expressed at the frequency with which attacks of unconsciousness, even when followed by a paralytic seizure, are more or less recovered from.

Twenty-five such cases are recorded of this kind, hemiplegia being the most frequent form and convulsions being sometimes present. Complete recovery occurred in some instances. A man suffered from three attacks of paralysis, at 82, 85, and 86, and one woman, in addition to several attacks of unconsciousness, had left hemiplegia and convulsions at 78, paralysis of the left hand at 82, and severe apoplexy at 89, after which she was able to get about again,

though with weakened mind and the liability to epilepsy (p. 148). Professor Humphry notes the satisfactory circumstance that many very aged persons possess their mental faculties and take a keen interest in the events of the day. Their judgment upon them is clear, and the consideration for the welfare of others is undiminished. Active, nay, severe and continuous brain activity, so far from impairing the organ, conduces to longevity (p. 24). Titian was engaged in painting his "Pieta" in his ninety-ninth year, a picture which bears witness to his "incomparable steadiness of hand." Octogenarian statesmen who have given evidence of extraordinary mental power likewise prove how slight must, in their cases, be the wasting of the cerebral convolutions. On the whole the author feels justified in stating that while "the old man meanders on his conversation unconscious that he is repeating himself, he remembers the tales of long-past times, but forgets that he has just told them;" this condition does not often end in senile dementia (p. 24).

It appears that among the 52 centenarians recorded, the intellect when reported, was high in 11 and low in five only, and being average in 36. As many as 39 out of 47 had good memories for past events, and 26 out of 39 retained their memories for recent events. Several were conspicuous for mental and bodily activity and energy during their long lives. There is evidence that many had been engaged in either mental work or hard bodily toil, "and in different ways had played their parts effectually on the world's stage to the end of the long drama which they reached in better plight than the well-known lines of the great poet might lead us to expect. I often wish that Shakespeare had lived to give a brighter version of his seven stages and to portray the old man, not lean and slippered, but well favoured and booted, keen in life's interest, and happy in promoting the welfare and enjoyment of others" (p. 38).

In the past life history of persons between 80 and 100 it is stated that 69 per cent. had been of "energetic" temperament, while 36 per cent. had had a "placid" temperament. The "irritable" constituted 13 per cent. The intellect was described as "low" in 5 per cent.; as "high" in 21 per cent., and of average amount in 73 per cent. (p. 181).

In the returns of the present condition, habits, etc., of males from 80 to 90, amounting to 340, the state of the intellect was reported in 322 instances; of these it was high in 55, average in 242, and low in 25. The report on memory

is as follows:—Past events—307 returns; good, 253; moderate, 34; bad, 20. Recent events—260 returns; good, 166; moderate, 56; bad, 38 (p. 159).

Under the returns of males from 90 to 100 we find that of the 92 reported the condition of the intellect was ascertained in 72 instances, and was high in 12, average in 51, and low in 9. Memory: Past events—70 returns; good, 58; moderate, 5; bad, 7. Recent events—60 returns; good, 34; moderate, 14; bad, 12 (p. 177). Passing on to the female sex we find that in the returns of their present conditions (from 80 to 90) information was obtained as to intellect in 266 cases, and that it was high in 33, low in 36, and average in 197. Memory: Past events—258 returns; good, 186; moderate, 41; bad, 31. Recent events—221 returns; good, 120; moderate, 58; bad, 43 (p. 186). Taking the past history of this decennium in females, one case of insanity is reported.

Of the present condition of women during the decade of 90 to 100 there were 110 returns, of which 102 reported the state of the intellect, viz., high, 18; average, 71; low, 13. Memory: Past events—105 returns; good, 80; moderate, 11; bad, 14. Memory: Recent events—93 returns; good, 55; moderate, 17; bad, 21 (p. 198).

From the foregoing it will be seen how important to the student of mental science is the information contained in this painstaking work, which is a model of what such an undertaking ought to be. It forms an admirable guide to those who may engage in similar investigations. We must express our great sense of indebtedness to Professor Humphry for devoting so much of his time to so useful an inquiry.

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*An Experimental Study in the Domain of Hypnotism.* By Dr. R. von KRAFFT-EBING. Translated from the German by CHARLES G. CHADDOCK, M.D. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1889.

When men like Prof. Krafft-Ebing study the phenomena of hypnotism, we feel that we have a guarantee for careful observation and cautious inference. It has taken a long time to induce leading psychologists to follow in the steps of Professor Laycock and Dr. Carpenter, who so many years ago recognized the importance of this study. "At first," writes the author, "I was not without doubt, but daily