

An Introduction to Experimental Psychology. By C. W. VALENTINE.
London: University Tutorial Press. Pp. 190 + vii.

This little book is chiefly concerned with the application of experimental psychology to educational problems, and to the work of the teacher in the school. Hence it is of only indirect value to psychiatrists. The clinician will, however, find in it many hints which can be turned to account in the examination of his patients, and it will enable him to devise tests and methods of great assistance in his investigations.

The book is divided into two parts. The first contains detailed instructions for carrying out the various experiments, while the second deals with their theoretical and practical significance. All the experiments are capable of being carried out without apparatus, or, at most, with apparatus that can be constructed in a few moments with pen and paper.

BERNARD HART.

Occultism—A Review.

Where do we stand to-day in our attitude towards occult matters—no better generic term being available? What knowledge have we of the existence of communications between ourselves and discarnate beings? What actual knowledge—apart from faith—have we of the continuity of human existence? What knowledge have we of the psychic powers inherent in ourselves? Since the middle of the nineteenth century, a large and increasing amount of investigatory work has been done towards the elucidation of these problems, and it is at all events a hopeful sign of our mental progress, that the proportion of those who regard all serious inquiry in this direction as utterly futile and indescribably absurd, is a daily decreasing one, and the storm of peevish derision that was aroused by the publication in the *Quarterly Journal of Science* in the early seventies of the results achieved by Sir William Crookes, looks to us remarkably ignorant in the light of the calm approbation with which the extraordinary results attained recently by certain savants, notably Professor Ochorowicz, have been generally received. There are so many people who are genuinely anxious to know what is really the present stage to which knowledge has advanced, that it seems a short survey of the conclusions at which investigators have arrived would not be amiss, especially as we in this country are a little behind in these studies, and just as the curative possibilities of hypnotism are only now beginning to be used practically here, while in France they are almost a commonplace, so in this country the majority of people are either sceptics or convinced spiritualists. The former are merely ignorant, and of their ignorance nothing further can be said, except that it is necessarily ignorance of a dense form, in view of the ample sources for its alleviation at their disposal; but for the spiritualists there is much to be said, seeing how most of the phenomena of occultism have every appearance of the intervention of outside intelligences to anyone who does not know of the strange developments of which subconsciousness is capable under certain conditions, commencing with hypnotism.

Through all the stages of the world's history there have been people