

Psychologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft. VON HANS CORNELIUS.
Leipzig: Teubner. 1897. Pp. 445.

This work is an attempt to give on an empirical basis a descriptive account of psychology which shall be scientific and, one might add, philosophic. It is in striking contrast to many recent works which are crowded with facts and details of individual psychology. The author seeks to ignore individual psychology altogether, and only to present the broad aspects of psychic life in their most abstract and generalised forms. His relationships may perhaps be most clearly realised by his sympathetic and admiring references throughout to Kant, James, Helmholtz, Avenarius, and Mach, while to Wundt and his school very little reference is made. He is opposed to "atomistic" psychology, which seeks to account for mental processes by a synthesis of hypothetical elements; he is opposed to a *merely* associational psychology; he is still more opposed to a psychology founded on brain physiology ("the psychic phenomena are certainly in some degree *dependent* on the physiological processes in the nerve substance, but they are not *identical* with them, and the description of one is not the description of the other.") Nor will he found psychology on any metaphysical hypothesis. It must, like every other science, be a description of facts. He lays great stress on the assertion (made by Kirchhoff in relation to physics) that all explanation is a simplification of description, and he desires to describe psychic facts as completely and as simply as possible; a mere reckoning up of isolated observations he regards as the least simple method of explanation, not worthy to be called science at all. Like James (whom he couples with Hume) the author regards consciousness as a stream, and sometimes also (as James would not) as a chain. His most fundamental idea is what he calls "the principle of unity" (*Einheitsprincip*). This law is described as "the endeavour manifested throughout our psychic life to bring together various parts, according to their resemblances, under *common* symbols." In other words it is the tendency "everywhere so far as possible to indicate by a comprehensive symbol the common element in varying phenomena." Psychology for the author may thus be said to deal very largely with the formation of abstract ideas. He finds his principle of unity already indicated by Berkeley, but more especially developed by Mach and Avenarius. It is the

former's principle of economy in thinking, the latter's principle of thinking with the least expenditure of energy. (Herbart and Beneke have set forth somewhat similar principles). We seek, so far as possible, to range all our experiences under already known ideas, to bring them under the same symbols as previous experiences, and in so doing we are seeking to classify them with greatest economy, least expenditure of energy or most simplicity. Scientific endeavour is thus the continuation of a really primitive mode of thinking, which may be traced throughout, and which has as its object the abbreviation of our experiences; such abbreviation is, in science, a theory of these experiences.

It is scarcely necessary to follow the author through his broad and comprehensive, but very bald and colourless, discussion of psychic phenomena. The author throughout deliberately avoids definite illustrations or detailed facts. This seems to be a mistake, for, as Ribot has shown, even the most abstract conceptions may thus be to a large extent illuminated. One may again compare this book with Professor James's great work, *The Principles of Psychology*, which also deals with psychology on a broadly descriptive and non-metaphysical basis. James's work is full of instructive and interesting detail, which certainly enriches rather than impedes the argument. The present work, notwithstanding its ability, is scarcely adapted for a text-book, or for other practical purposes, while its baldness renders it somewhat unprofitable to read.

Leçons de Clinique Médicale. Par le Dr. PIERRE MARIE.
Paris: Masson et Cie, Editeurs. 1896. Pp. 296; figs.
57. Price 6 fr.

These 16 lectures were delivered by Marie at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital, and include quite a variety of subjects—no doubt largely determined by the kind of case which happened to present itself at the Clinique, so that the volume before us may best be described as a collection of monographs on interesting medical diseases, and as a rule illustrated by more or less typical cases. It is a curious fact that the publication of books of this kind (collections of clinical lectures) is very much more frequent in France than in our own country, probably for reasons of a complex kind; but it seems to us that medical science benefits by the practice,