

convulsive attacks. What the author thus expressed thirty years ago in support of M. Morel's doctrine of *epilepsie larvée* does not require proof or apology at the present day.

"The Disorders of Speech and Verbal Memory in Cerebral Affections" is an article written in 1864, and discusses aphenia, aphasia, alalia, etc., and is a remarkable contribution to a subject upon which so much has been written since it appeared. We must not pass over the essay on *Folie raisonnante*, or moral insanity. Truly is it spoken of as one of the most vast and difficult questions which can be discussed by medical psychologists. His conclusion is, that while we must recognize that the scientific limits separating these conditions of moral disorder from insanity, properly so-called, cannot be rigorously defined, the theory of partial responsibility ought to be absolutely rejected, no less for the different varieties of moral insanity than for all other well defined forms of mental disorder.

The article on Communicated Insanity (*folie à deux*) was prepared in collaboration with Lasègue in 1877. Since that year there have been many contributions made to the study of this highly interesting form of mental disorder, but none is more instructive than the memoir of M. Falret.

The volume closes with an important paper on Circular Insanity written in 1878-79.

This collection of psychological essays deserves no ordinary commendation. They are worthy of the son of the celebrated Doctor J. P. Falret, in whose footsteps he has followed not only in his acute observation and clear description of mental disorders, but in collecting together in declining years the productions of a lifetime. They agree in having exercised no inconsiderable influence upon the development of mental science.

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*Synopsis of Human Anatomy.* By JAMES K. YOUNG, M.D.  
Philadelphia and London, 1889. F. A. Davis, Oxford  
Street, W.

This small work, one of a series entitled "Physicians' and Students' Ready Reference Series," will be found to correspond to its title. It is a useful compendium, and compresses within some 400 pages a large amount of information. The cranial nerves are clearly tabulated at the end of the volume, and their distribution and function presented in a bird's-eye view.

About 50 pages are devoted to the nervous system. We should have expected to find the localities of the cerebral motor centres indicated. The table of the spinal nerves is very complete. As a handy book of reference it can be recommended. Dr. Young is the Assistant Demonstrator of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania.

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*The Philosophy of Mysticism.* By CARL DU PREL, *Dr. Phil.*  
Translated from the German by C. C. Massey. 2  
Vols. London: George Redway, 1889.

This is a work of original speculation, which, however far it may fall short of a rigid scientific basis, forms an interesting subject of study. It is claimed that Carl du Prel is the first to have shown that somnambulism and allied conditions are not morbid in their nature, but constitute a higher plain of normal sleep, while the remarkable phenomena developed by somnambulism are merely an exaltation of ordinary dream life. The aim of the work is to level up, not to level down—that is to say, sleep and dreams are regarded as of higher significance, not somnambulistic phenomena of lower import. It will be seen that the lines upon which this work is written are of a transcendental order, and not on those of recognized cerebral physiology. This fact, however, ought not to prevent our considering whether an original mind may not throw out some fresh ideas worth picking up among much which may be considered unscientific chat. We are not one of those “critics who are only able to explain every departure from their opinions by the insanity of the author.”

Let us hear what a Mystic has to say in regard to natural somnambulism. After some preliminary general observations, the author maintains that somnambulism produces susceptibility to *finer* influences than are received by the senses of the waking person. Hence the sense thus educed releases faculties of a superior order. Still, the writer warns us against overestimating this condition. The will is passive, and therefore the associated mental condition is to this extent beneath that of man when he is awake, although, as asserted, there is a transitory exaltation of the faculties, unknown to us when our senses are cognisant of the external world. So far the author can be followed, but then comes a speculative suggestion, which can have no practical interest for the mental physiologist. Are there, upon other planets, beings of more favour-