explanations, but he puts forward his work not so much as an argument as a collection of documents which will be of value to all workers, whatever their own personal views may be.

This value of the atlas is well set forth by Professor Flechsig in the preface he has written to it. He points out the importance of the problem as to what determines the incidence of general paralysis in only striking a minute proportion of the syphilitic, and he regards Näcke's work as of permanent interest to all who are engaged in this field, whatever their own standpoint may be in regard to the question of the significance of the external form of the cerebral hemispheres. The limits within which the brain may vary without ceasing to be normal are still uncertain, and Flechsig believes that Näcke's atlas will furnish the stimulus to a new scientific movement. HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Traité Internationale de Psychologie Pathologique. Tome Prem.: Psychopathologie Generale. Felix Alcan, Paris, 1910. Large 8vo. Pp. 1028. Gravures 353. Pr. 25 fcs.

This work is the first of three volumes to be published under the direction of Dr. A. Marie, aided by Bechterew, Clouston, Grasset, Lugaro, Magnan, Pilcz, Raymond, and Ziehen, whose names alone are a sufficient guarantee that the divisions of the work will be adequately dealt with by the long list of almost equally distinguished contributors.

The second volume will be devoted to "Mentalité morbide (clinique et psychologique)," and the third, final, volume will be devoted to "Principes Généraux a'Assistance et Therapeutique."

The volume under consideration, of the contents of which this notice is intended only to give a sketch, without any attempt at detailed criticism, commences with a chapter by Dr. F. Grassel on the relations of psychiatry and neurology, in which the unity of human neurobiology is insisted on. This is followed by a chapter on the history of mental medicine by Dr. F. Del Grico. To this succeeds a very valuable contribution by Dr. A. Marie on psychiatric anthropology, which is copiously and interestingly illustrated. The fissures and convolutions of the brains of the insane are dealt with by Dr. Mingazzini, and the chemistry of the cerebral substance is treated by Dr. A. Marie. Next follows a very copious and systematic chapter by MM. A. Marie and Dide treating of the "Examen physiopathologique par functions." To this succeed contributions by Klippel, Lugaro, Marinesco, Dide, Medea, and L. Levastine on general pathologic anatomy in mental medicine.

Human psychologic evolution at puberty is dealt with by Professor Marro, and the volume concludes with essays on methods of examination, Dr. Clouston dealing with the clinical, Professor Bechterew with the "psychologique objectif," Ferrari with the "medico-pédagogique," and Professor Ferrari with the medico-legal.

This enumeration of the contents will be sufficient to indicate the great value of the work as a contribution to medico-psychologic literature. The writers have in all cases maintained the reputation that most of them have already gained in relation to their special subjects.

The work is open to the general criticism, which appertains to all such undertakings, that some subjects are treated in too little detail, whilst others—but this is much less frequently the case—are given a relatively larger consideration.

The literary side of the work is of high character, and the numerous illustrations are for the most part admirably produced. The typesetter has made a curious mistake in an English quotation on the female voice, p. 840, but this exception only emphasises the general correctness of the letterpress.

The work is of such importance that every alienist physician should study it and every psychologic library possess it for reference.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Neurology.

A Proof of the Existence of Neuro-fibrils in the Living [*Una prov dell' esistenza della neuro-fibrille nel vivente*]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., fasc. iv, April*, 1909.) *Lugaro, E.*

Neuro-fibrils have often been suspected of being artificial productions due to the action of precipitation, by histological reagents, of cellular colloids. This suspicion has been strengthened by the fact that, outside of the body, appearances similar to the neuro-fibrils may be obtained by precipitation of organic and inorganic colloids. Lugaro is of opinion that, in view of these suspicions, it ought primarily to be demonstrated that neuro-fibrils exist in the living, and proof afforded that they are not artificial products of our manipulation or of *post-mortem* coagulation.

Pighini, in a recent work, pointed out that he has subjected extracts of nervous substance to the several treatments which pieces of nervous tissue receive in the fibrillary methods of Cajal and Donaggio. He holds that he has attained from these methods networks which were a specific product of the technical process adopted, inasmuch as they were not obtained by other methods, *e.g.*, by the action of alcohol, formol, or perchloride of mercury. Lugaro draws different conclusions from the data of Pighini, and holds that experiments of the kind are not able to solve the question. It would be too much to say that in living organism structures do not exist solely because it is possible to manufacture them artificially by precipitation.

With the object of proving that neuro-fibrils exist in the living and in order to eliminate every doubt, Lugaro has made the following experiments in three young rabbits and two young cats, and without using narcosis. The lumbo-sacral medulla was exposed and deprived of its dura mater. On the medulla *in situ* and still living was poured slowly a litre of boiling physiological solution (chloride of sodium) at a temperature that varied in the different experiments between 80° and 100° C. The coagulation of the spinal cord in this way was extremely rapid, the surrounding tissues being also coagulated to a depth of 7–8 mm.