

the greater or lesser ease with which external stimuli can set in motion the central nerve organs."

Throughout the work there is a wonderful crispness of expression, and although the views advanced are not strikingly original, yet the careful order in which they are marshalled, the simplicity and clearness of statement, make the appreciation of the matter both easy and pleasant. The work cannot fail on this account to be both popular and useful with students of psychology, to whom it may be commended as a most satisfactory handbook.

Le Sommeil et la Système Nerveux. By S. SERGUEYEFF.
Two vols. Félix Alcan. Paris, 1890.

This ponderous tome is the first volume of M. Sergueyeff's work on the "Physiologie de la Veille et du Sommeil," dedicated so far back as 1881 to the late Emperor Alexander II. of Russia.

Starting in the first chapter with the statement that vital alternations of sleeping and waking are essentially vegetative, the assumption is made that these are dependent on an "aliment," which should be ethereal, "sthenic," or dynamic, and the conclusions arrived at in the final chapter are that there is an assimilation of the so-called "imponderable ether," or "dynamisme ambiant;" that this is effected by the ganglio-epidermic apparatus, and its application to the needs of the body made by the ganglionic elements of the sympathetic system.

A serious criticism of the deductions made from the numerous quotations from writers on physiology, and of the facts advanced in support of these, would occupy much space and time; the statement of the theory will probably suffice for those who are interested in such speculations.

One quotation, however, must be alluded to, viz., on p. 777, from Benjamin W. Richardson: "C'est ce même ether produit dans l'économie, à l'aide duquel on perçoit, on sent &c."

The production of the "ether" in the economy, our author naively says, seems going too far, and for once we can agree in his conclusion, although we doubt the correctness of the translation which attributes powers of creation to the human economy.

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