

Schiff and other writers, but we simply feel, and especially in a research of this kind, that a great deal of dispute about the functions of the excito-motor area of the cortex has arisen in consequence of the popular ideas concerning the spontaneity and independence of voluntary actions. The net result of his experiments amounts to this: that section of the "association fibres" produces almost the same effect as destruction of the sigmoid gyrus itself or of the pyramidal tract leading from it. In other words, the "motor" centres have no function in the absence of sensation, an experimental illustration of Dr. Hughlings Jackson's "First Principles." We hope that this new demonstration of the physiological truth of localization of cerebral function will receive at the hands of neurologists the attention it deserves.

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*Insanity. Modern Views as to its Nature and Treatment.*

By W. T. GAIRDNER, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, &c., 1885.

Professor Gairdner makes the study of insanity a conspicuous part of general medicine. Of this he has given proofs on several occasions; his most recent utterances being published under the title at the head of this notice. The basis of his pamphlet is laid in the Morisonian lecture which he delivered in Edinburgh in 1879. This lecture was reproduced in an address delivered before the Glasgow University Medico-Chirurgical Society at the close of the Winter Session 1884-1885. In it he strongly advocated the necessity for more attention being paid to insanity in the medical curriculum, and pointed out "that recent instances showed that public opinion would not much longer tolerate a state of the law and practice in dealing with the insane in which the most delicate and important questions arising as to the insane mind might be submitted to persons medically educated, but in reality wholly devoid of experience or even of systematic instruction in this department of the healing art." The author states, however, that the object of the address, and of the whole series of the Morison lectures, of which it forms a part, was to show "that the principles underlying the modern treatment of the insane are precisely the same as those which have been emerging into more and more prominence in connection with what are admittedly bodily diseases." An appendix of notes is given which extends to

a greater length than the address itself. The subjects treated of in these notes are—"On the Early Training and Mental History of John Stuart Mill, considered in reference to some peculiarities in his writings; the Subjection of Women, by the same writer; Christianity, Witchcraft, and Demoniack Possession; Genius and Insanity; and lastly the Wyndham Case." Dr. Gairdner always brings a charming freshness to whatever subject he discusses, and an impartiality which carries the reader along with him. We regret that our space will not allow of our making more extracts, and must content ourselves with referring the reader to the pamphlet itself.

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*Physical Expression.* By FRANCIS WARNER, M.D. Vol. 52 of "The International Science Series."

*La Physionomie et les Sentiments.* Par P. MANTEGAZZA. Vol. 49, "Bibliothèque Scientifique Internationale."

Though placed together for the purposes of review, these two books are at the opposite poles from the reader's point of view. The first is decidedly hard reading, brimful of facts and careful methodical treatment, whereas the latter, though full of observations and of points of interest, is so pleasantly put that we read as we run.

It must not be considered from this that we object to Dr. Warner's style or method, but we suffer from the weight of the subject.

We shall begin by considering "Physical Expression." It is difficult to review fairly a book which has few or no compeers. If the book had been upon the hand and its expression, or on the face and the relations of its movements to feelings and to character, we could have compared it with others; but when the whole subject of expression is considered, when every outward sign of every inward action is attempted to be arranged for future study, we feel the enormous extent of the land which has to be surveyed, and begin the study of the book with a good deal of nervousness. In reviewing a book of this kind, as in fact in reviewing any book fairly, the first thing is to consider what the object of the author is, and next whether he has done what he intended. The questions of the worth of the original object and the manner of the execution of the self-imposed duty may be then considered.

The book is addressed to all students of the living and