

itself; it is chiefly effective through the state of wind and storm with which it is largely associated.

Dryness of air is an important factor, since it induces restless activity of mind and body; although bracing and vitalising, it produces in the pupils phenomena which in the eyes of teachers constitute disorder. In Colorado this effect is emphasised, the resulting excesses in school children amounting to not less than 400 per cent., and for suicide and murder very much more. The author attributes this not to dry air *per se*, but to the universally accompanying electrical condition. Contrary to what might be expected, extreme humidity is found, as regards nearly every condition investigated, either to have no influence at all, or else to have a favourable influence. Suicides, for instance, generally choose fine weather, and show especially marked aversion for wet weather.

The effect of wind is found to be very much greater in Colorado than New York. In the latter city it seems to be somewhat beneficial; in Colorado even winds of moderate velocity are accompanied by nearly five times the normal number of school misdemeanours.

The suicide curves reveal little that is new. In reference to assaults it is found that spring (March) and autumn (October) are the periods of climax, and the author believes that this is due to unseasonably hot days; during excessively hot periods in summer assaults decrease. With regard to assaults, and to a slight extent the onset of insanity, it was found that weather has a markedly greater influence on women than on men.

Errors in banks are found to occur most frequently on fine days, and when the clerks are feeling at their best. This is due to the fact that depressing or disturbing climatic influences lead to self-distrust and consequent greater care in checking work, while a state of well-being induces self-confidence and carelessness.

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*On Inhibition (Monograph Supplement, Psychological Review).* By B. B. BREESE, A.M. London and New York: Macmillan and Co., pp. 65, large 8vo.

The conception of inhibition in physiology stands for a definite function, although there is not complete agreement as to the seat of that function. In psychology, however, the conception is used much more variously and loosely. What does inhibition mean in psychology? That is the question which the author has set himself to answer, and to illustrate by experiment.

Examining the conception of inhibition as used by a number of psychologists, it is found that there are five different senses in which "inhibition" is spoken of, and it is often used as a mere logical concept to designate all kinds of mental conflict, hesitation, and arrest. The author concludes that its use in psychology should be strictly confined to psycho-physical phenomena, whether (1) inhibition of one sensation by another; (2) inhibition of bodily movement by sensation; (3) inhi-

bition of mental state by motor actions ; (4) inhibition of bodily functions by emotions ; (5) inhibition of bodily movements by will. When no distinct and definite physiological activities are involved, it is held there is no true inhibition.

The experimental part of the study deals with the first and third classes of inhibition. The chief investigation deals with the phenomena of binocular rivalry, *i. e.* the manner in which two incongruous fields, when separately presented to the corresponding points of the two retinae at the same time, tend alternately to suppress each other. It is unnecessary to summarise the elaborate experiments here described ; the general result is that the phenomena of binocular rivalry are found to be both psychical and physiological, fundamentally a rivalry of discharging centres whose activity is inseparably connected with incoming sense stimuli.

A further series of experiments showed that there is marked inability to remember a series of colours when all motor movements of articulation are entirely suppressed. The author concludes that in general inhibition of the motor elements tends to inhibit consciousness, and that the condition of consciousness is the transference of the action of the stimulus into a tendency towards motor activity.

The author severely criticises the suppression of motor activity in schools, which thereby tend to become institutions for the suppression of mentality. He considers that children should be taught to *do* as well as to think, and that their motor activity should not be inhibited but directed. A hesitating and ineffective bodily reaction is the accompaniment of a weakened or confused state of mind.

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*The Psychological Index for 1898.* Compiled by HOWARD C. WARREN.  
London and New York : Macmillan, 1899. Pp. 173, large 8vo.

This is the fifth annual issue of an index which, either in this or in its French form as an appendix to Binet's *Année psychologique*, is almost indispensable to every psychologist and alienist. It is issued without charge to subscribers to the *Psychological Review*, and may also be purchased separately, though the price is not mentioned. There are 2558 entries in the present index, of which not less than 706 come under the heading (with appropriate sub-headings) of "abnormal and pathological." We note, as a slight flaw that might be avoided in future, that some works printed and published in England (such as Talbot's *Degeneracy*) are entered as though produced by the firm issuing them in America.

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*L'Année sociologique.* Publiée sous la direction d'ÉMILE DURKHEIM.  
Deuxième année. Paris : Alcan, 1899. Pp. 596, large 8vo.  
Price 10 fr.

The second issue of Prof. Durkheim's sociological year-book fully maintains the high level of excellence set by the first volume, and