Bernheim, Beaunis, Delbœuf, Gurney, Janet, and of the author are given, but they do not pierce the mystery.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

The Psychology of Hierology [*Les lois psychologiques de l'hierogénie*]. (*Rev. de l'Hyp., Dec.*, 1899.) *Binet-Sanglé, C.*

We are promised the study in succession of the devotional type and its variants, also of religious suggestion, religious contagion, and the developments of sects. Dr. Charles Binet-Sanglé selects the Port Royalists as examples of the devotional type, and finds in them unhealthy, sickly beings with neurotic tendencies, "leading an abnormal life because themselves abnormal." The description does not quite seem to fit the stature of the whole man. Blaise Pascal and this morbid anatomy of the saints strike us occasionally as rather inside out.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

False Evidence by Suggestion [*Les faux témoirgnages suggérés*]. (*Rev. de l'Hyp., Jan.*, 1900.) *Joire, P.*

He refers to this important subject under three headings: 1st, the intentional suggestion of false evidence to the witness, who has been hypnotised for the purpose; 2nd, false evidence through *auto*-suggestion, the witness belonging to the hysterical class; 3rd, the unintentional suggestion of false evidence to, and the unwitting reception of the suggestion by, the witness. The first category is of minor importance because, though possible, it is unlikely by reason of its complication; the second is of well-recognised importance; but the third, which may be styled suggestion by the *leading question*, is less recognised, yet is of great importance, more particularly in the legal examination of children and of the impressionable. It behoves the doctor, as well as the lawyer, to have it prominently in mind.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

Binocular Illusions [*Les illusions binoculaires*]. (*Rev. Scient., Aug., Sept.*, 1899.) *Dissard, M. A.*

The author here analyses the phenomena of neutralisation in monocular vision and in diplopia, the neutralisation of phosphenes, the phenomena of total neutralisation of the excitation of one eye (*e.g.* in microscopy), etc.

As a result of his investigations he concludes that we may conceive the unification of the perceptions of each eye in binocular vision occurring in the following ways:

1. The perception of points of the common binocular field situated upon the horopteric surface takes place by the fusion of the corresponding excitations of the two retinæ.

2. The perception of points situated beyond the horopter takes place by the neutralisation of the decussated excitations and the juxtaposition of the direct excitations which are brought together in consciousness along the antero-posterior diameter of the eye, or "line of juxtaposition."

3. The perception of points situated in front of the horopter takes place by the neutralisation of the direct excitations and the juxtaposition of the decussated excitations.

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4. Parts which are not common, seen monocularly, harmonise with binocular perception all the more easily that they are more distant on account of the predominance in the vision of the eye of the corresponding side. H. J. MACEVOY.

The Neuron and Cellular Memory [*Le neurone et mémoire cellulaire*]. (*Rev. Scient., September 9th*, 1899.) *Renaut, J.*

This is the subject of an eloquent introductory address given at the University of Lyons. The morphology of the neuron, "of which many people speak learnedly, without taking the necessary step of carefully studying it" is described, taken with its pole of reception and its pole of application (the extremity of the axon), and compared to a tree, such as the palm, the central nervous system as a whole being a forest in which the trees, shrubs, etc., intertwine their aërial and subterranean offshoots, without there being true continuity.

Concerning the fascinating theory of nervous amœboidism to explain the articulation of the neurons during the passage of the nervous wave, Renaut recalls that it was in vainly searching for the pseudopodic movements in living nerve-cells that he found something else—the *beaded* appearance in the active branches of the neurons. With the aid of the admirable method of the injection of methyl blue in the blood of a living animal, the extremities of the processes of the neurons are found to be free, but at their extremity they are kept in a fixed spot by *adhesive contacts* (like the branches of ivy to a wall); and secondly, at the level of their active arborisations, a certain number of branches cease to be quite uniform and smooth like threads, and become beaded (hence Stefanowska's subsequent term "pyriform appendices"). Renaut thereupon bases an hypothesis that one may consider the variations in the beaded disposition, which are innumerable, as corresponding to the conditions, equally variable, of an accommodationof the receptive nervous filaments to the passage of the wave projected upon them by the inducing filaments (an analogy with the consonance of two violins). Concerning the memory of cells, the author believes that one of the most remarkable properties of the neuron is the aptitude which it seems to possess of superposing in itself distinct memorial impressions. He argues also in favour of the presence of recognition as an attribute of the neuron. In conclusion he says, "I am led to believe that of all hereditary qualities, cellular memory, of which so little has been heard hitherto in biology, has nevertheless played the most important part in organic (and especially human) differentiations."

H. J. MACEVOY.

4. Ætiology of Insanity.

Heredity and Insanity. (*Amer. Journ. Ins.*, 1897, *vol. liv, p.* 227.) *Stearns, H. P.*

He takes exception to the teachings of Du Bois Raymond and Weismann regarding the transmission of acquired characters. According to Weismann unicellular organisms are propagated by a division

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