

a mistrust in the reality of material phenomena, which caused him to rest in the thought of two, and two only, absolute and luminously self-evident beings—himself and his Creator. The tendency of thought in the present day is towards negation, the notion of self-existence as a philosophical expression being non-existent; and some there are who cannot conceive of force without matter—which certainly denies to thought any executive power of its own. To us the leap from unconsciousness to consciousness is hardly thinkable without an external agency, and matter which is dead must have thought and spoken. The only explanation is that Will, which is immaterial, must have caused matter to exist, and the final cause must therefore be mind. Surely the atom possessed of a *tendency* towards endless development presupposes in the originator almost infinite foresight!

It is the province of philosophy to criticise and treat systematically these different realities of man's knowledge so as to bring them into an ideal unity. Ladd deals in this volume with the problem of the reality known. In a recent work, also reviewed in this JOURNAL, he dealt with the problem of man as a knower. Both are really two aspects of one problem—the object of human critical and reflective thinking—and admit of relatively independent discussion. The contents of the volume are purely speculative, as all abstruse reflections upon the problems of existence must needs be. The plea of the author, who appears to us more in sympathy with the sage of Königsberg than with the more modern students of the experimental schools, in placing this interesting volume before his readers is that an aim should be made to harmonize our experiences in some view of the world and of human life that shall be free from contradiction, and that shall interpret and illumine them all; and to do this in a way that may be truthful, rich in content, æsthetically inspiring, and ethically satisfying. No apology is needed for the statement that to think soberly and thoroughly deepens and enriches the life of conduct and the development of character, and we commend with pleasure Prof. Ladd's aim to get at reality in his successful effort at systematic metaphysics.

Experimental Study of Children. By Dr. ARTHUR MACDONALD.
Published from Government Printing Office, Washington, 1899.

Dr. Arthur MacDonald as specialist to the United States Bureau of Education, Washington, has had exceptional opportunities in conducting the experimental study of children, assisted by State aid, which enabled him to collect all the principal forms of instruments employed in anthropological and physico-psychological research. The volume before us comprises 400 pages of tables and closely printed matter, presenting Chapters XXI to XXV of the Report of the Commissioner of Education, U.S., 1897-8.

A special study was made of 1074 Washington school children—

“(1) As to the cephalic index and sensibility to heat and locality

upon the skin, with relation to sex, mental ability, and sociological condition ; based upon measurements by the author."

"(2) An anthropometrical and sociological study of all the school children ; based upon measurements by the teachers."

"(3) A purely psychological inquiry as to comparative mental ability in the different school studies as reported by the teachers."

"(4) A study of the abnormal children in the schools as reported by the teachers." It must here be remarked that under the heading "abnormal children" the author includes such points as sickliness, nervousness, defect of sight, hearing, speech, as well as lazy and unruly children.

Conclusions arrived at as to these 1074 children are—(1) Dolichocephaly increases as ability decreases. (2) Children are more sensitive to locality and heat on the skin before puberty than after. (3) Boys are less sensitive to locality and more sensitive to heat than girls. (4) Children of the non-labouring classes are more sensitive to locality and heat than those of the labouring classes. (5) Coloured children are much more sensitive to heat than white children. Schedules are given upon which the points observed were recorded. Numerous detailed tables as to the anthropometric and sensory measurements show the correlative sociological condition as to mental ability.

It may be thought that no clear picture of the child below the normal is here presented to the reader to guide his ordinary observations when instruments of precision are not at hand, or their employment is impracticable. Anthropometry and exact sensory tests afford useful information ; but the former need supplementary observation of the conformation of the individual features, the mouth, palpebral fissures, nose, ears, as well as the palate. Sensory tests, at least those producing an impression short of pain, depend largely upon the capacity (mental) of the individual in verbal response ; these need to be supplemented by some general observations of the motor action and response of the nerve system. Dr. MacDonald's inquiries afford valuable information, and would be of still greater importance if combined with such further observations as are recorded in the *Reports* of the Childhood Society (London).

A very useful section of this volume gives a full description of the instruments used in experimental study, together with ninety-two illustrations, and many tables setting forth results of their employment. The instruments described include a very complete list of those required in anthropometry and in Bertillon's system of identification ; an ingenious palatometer is illustrated. Several forms of dynamometer are described, including examples intended to show the power of pressure by the lips and the tongue ; these might perhaps be of use in the investigation of cases of general paralysis. Numerous instruments for the graphic study of tremors and involuntary finger movements are illustrated, and appear likely to afford interesting results. About thirty forms of æsthesiometer, showing sensitiveness to weight or pressure, to heat and touch, are figured, and some results of their use are tabulated. A very valuable bibliography of experimental study of children concludes this chapter.

The concluding section of this work is devoted to a review of child

study in the United States, mainly dealing with the psychological researches of Dr. Stanley Hall as to the contents of children's minds; the results are well classified according to the age and sex of the children. An excellent bibliography of child study concludes the volume, which is full of points of interest for those who wish to study the mental evolution of children.

L'Instabilité mentale: Essai sur les Données de la Psycho-pathologie.
Par G. L. DUPRAT. Paris: Alcan, 1899, pp. 310, 8vo. Price
5 francs.

This book belongs to a class which, happily or unhappily, we meet with much more frequently in France than in our own country. The author is a professor of philosophy and a doctor of letters; if he is not also a graduate in medicine he certainly has a knowledge at first hand of the facts of mental disease, as well as a wide knowledge of its literature, and has himself contributed original articles to medical journals. He here attempts the task of viewing the facts of modern morbid psychology from a philosophical standpoint.

At the outset he frankly declares his object and his position. The book, he states, is simply a philosophic essay; he is not adding to science, but criticising scientific results and examining scientific first principles. He thus cuts himself off from those who, like Féré, endeavour to find a physiological basis for the phenomena of morbid mental troubles; he wishes to establish the priority of the rights of psychology to explain disturbances within its own sphere. Further, he finds that mental instability, taken in the broadest sense, is the characteristic of all psychopathic states; psychological instability he regards as primordial, and the source, not the result, of the various disorders of sensation and movement. He argues that thought is always tending to vary, and that, in the absence of any constant principle of systematisation, guiding mental evolution, the mind becomes the prey of its own natural instability. The whole argument of the book may thus be said to be stated in its title. The author expresses special indebtedness to Janet's *Automatisme psychologique*, in so far as that book may be said to reveal the mental services which psychology and pathology can render to each other; he is, however, by no means in agreement with Janet in matters of detail.

The greater part of the book is devoted to the monotonous application of the formula, in the first place to the various forms of mental activity, and in the second place to the leading forms of mental disorder. There is little difficulty in showing the wide prevalence of mental instability, except in regard to a certain number of psychoses, where stability is too obvious a phenomenon. In regard to these (melancholia, systematised delusions, obsessions, &c.) the author argues that the higher mental activities are really unstable; so unstable, in fact, that they have disappeared altogether, and that lower mental centres are free to effect rigid co-ordinations of their own. This