UNTERSUCHUNGEN ZUR KENNTNIS DER PSYCHOMOTORISCHEN BEWEGUNGSGESTÖRUNGEN BEI GEISTESKRANKEN. Dr. Karl Kleist. Verlag von Dr. Werner Klinkhardt, Leipzig. Bibliothek medizinischer Monographien. Band III.

Kleist has been a student of motor disturbances for many years. His earlier work was addressed to the choreas and now later he has taken up the psychoses. The present work is largely theoretical and is, in fact, the formulation of an hypothesis to account for the motor disturbances found in catatonia. The author believes them to be due to a disturbance in the cerebellar-frontal system. The theory is interesting, hardly more, especially in view of recent pathological findings in *præcox*, more particularly in the cerebellum.

WHITE.

DIE TRAUMDEUTUNG. Von Dr. Sigm. Freud. Franz Deuticke, Leipzig und Wien. 2d ed.

It is hardly necessary to call attention to this work to psychiatrists in any country further than to note the appearance of a second edition. It marks a distinct epoch in the development of modern psychopathology and is the most important, in fact the fundamental, work of the gifted and noted author. It is scarcely necessary to say that in his theory of the significance and interpretation of dreams Freud has developed the principles which have brought his psychiatry into world-wide repute. Die Traumdeutung is the portal through which to enter upon an understanding of Freudian principles. It should by all means be rendered into English, although this would be an especially difficult task.

WHITE.

UEBER DEN SELBSTMORD. Robert Gaupp. Zweite, vermehrte Auflage. Verlag der Aertztlichen Rundschau, Otto Gmelin, München, 1910.

The study of suicide is very interesting and important to the student of psychopathology. It is still a mooted question whether a suicidal act is the result of a diseased mind. It is lamentable that the solution of this difficult and serious problem is sought in statistical documents and not the study of a few well-analyzed cases resorted to. Hagen (quoted by Gaupp) remarks: "Statistics do not offer causes for the phenomenon, but only stimulation to seek causes." Gaupp, in his instructive monograph about suicide, gives firstly complete data of the statistical study of suicide, and secondly the results of his own careful and painful investigations. The gist of his monograph may be given as follows:

Suicide is on the increase in civilized countries and the Germanic race, especially, shows a great tendency towards self-destruction. Formerly the Jews rarely committed suicide, but of late it has become frequent among them. Men take their lives more often than women, and this is particularly true of the Europeans—the usual ratio is four to one. However, in Japan the number of women predominates over that of men. It is a general rule that the frequency of suicide increases with age. In children under the age of fifteen it is rare; after fifteen, with the appearance of puberty, suicide in the female is rather of relatively frequent occurrence. Suicide is seldom perpetrated by married men and women, while in childless marriages it is not rare; in the widowed and separated it is frequent. It is interesting to note that suicides occur more often in the spring and summer than in fall and winter. It is generally conceded

that religion exerts a great influence on the occurrence of suicide—for instance, it is more common among the Protestants than the Catholics, and the Jews show a relatively smaller figure than the Christians. Suicide is more frequent in large cities than in villages, and is greater in rich districts than in the poor. The educated take their own lives more often than the ignorant—the more illiterate the less suicides. Artists, merchants, wholesale dealers and the learned form a high percentage, and the clergy a low figure. Suicide is rather oftentimes committed by servants, prisoners and soldiers—in the last the ratio is eight (soldiers) to one (civilian) in Austria and two to one in Germany. The method of taking one's life varies in different countries—the Germans and Japanese prefer hanging; the Italians and Spaniards rarely choose but in the latter shooting is preferable; the English and Swedish resort to poison and it is said that this method is eight times more frequent than in Belgium and France. As a rule, women prefer poison or drowning; young women and children resort to jumping from the window. Griesinger said that "the more unusual and cruel is the method of self-destruction undertaken, the more ground exists to consider the act being the result of a morbid mood."

There is a custom in München to admit every attempted case of suicide to the Psychiatric Clinic, and thus Gaupp had the opportunity to study one hundred and twenty-four cases during the years of 1904, 1905 and 1906. Of this number sixty were men and sixty-four were women, and only one of them was well mentally. They may be classified as follows:

WELL-MARKED PSYCHOSES.

Dementia præcox	11
Manic depressive insanity	17
Senile psychosis	4
Alcoholic psychosis	4
General paralysis	1
Feeble minded	7

NOT WELL-DEVELOPED PSYCHOSES.

Epilepsy	12
Hysteria	10
Chronic alcoholism	28

The author is of the opinion that suicide is the result of a diseased mind and in his own words: "The facts teach us that suicide almost always originates from morbid states. And they teach us something else—namely, how people deceive themselves by believing that they can clearly perceive in their consciousness causes for their actions. Suicide is a social, a biological, and finally a psychological problem. It runs through a people according to laws, whose effects show us very distinctly the results of the statistics, and whose nature and content we commence to apprehend now."

M. J. KARPAS (Berlin, Germany).