SENSIBILITY TO PAIN.

Psychological Review, July, 1896.

Dr. Harold Griffing experimented on 63 students at Columbia University in regard to the relative sensibility of individuals to dermal pain. His tests were made with a pressure algometer and with the induction coil. In the electrical tests the two forefingers of each hand were placed in separate cups of water, and the alternating current was sent through the body from hand to hand. The pressure test was applied to the palm of the hand and forehead in most experiments. The experiments showed that the thickness of the skin and subcutaneous tissues is an important element in determining the threshold for dermal pain. But some subjects were much more sensitive, and others less sensitive than was expected from the appearance of the hand. He found that sensitiveness not only varied with the different individuals, but it also varied in different parts of the same body, *e. g.*, those having a high pain threshold for the hand were not always correspondingly sensitive to pressure applied to the forehead and top of the head. But those who were sensitive on the hand were on the average more sensitive on the head. He also found that sensibility to electrical stimulation to be quite independent to pressure sensibility. Three subjects among the most sensitive of 27, tested as to pressure on the hand and head declared that they felt no discomfort at all when the maximum strength of current was given. One student to whom a pressure of 15 kilo. on the hand and 11 kilo. on the head gave no discomfort, considered the electrical effect unpleasant when the current was of the average strength.

CHRISTISON.

LIGHT INTENSITY AND DEPTH PERCEPTION.

From American Journal of Psychology, July, 1896.

T. R. Robinson (Toronto) has recently been experimenting on Fechner's "paradox" which consists in the fact that when one eye is partially obscured by a smoked glass or other means, the closing of that eye results in a brightening of the common visual field or of an object in the common visual field; *i. e.*, a decrease of intensity of physical stimulus results in an increase of intensity of sensation.

Robinson's experiments showed that the paradoxical phenomenon occurs only when most of the light is excluded from the second eye. If, on the other hand, comparatively little light is excluded, on the closing of that eye the whole visual field appears darker. Between these limits there is for every absolute intensity what may be called an "indifference point" or point of inefficiency, at which the light admitted to the second eye has no effect upon the brightness of the common visual field.

Aubert had previously found that at a certain degree of obscuration of the second eye occurred the greatest darkening of the common visual field, and that the admission of less light to that eye had the same effect as the admission of more light, *viz.*, a brightening of the common visual field.

CHRISTISON.