enhanced the value of his clinical material. In spite of the faults and omissions pointed out, the book is an admirable one, clearly written and a valuable contribution to a new subject, which promises much in the near future with reference to accurate diagnosis of nervous and mental diseases.

I. H. CORIAT.

Les Autoaccusateurs au Point de Vue Médico-Légal. By M. le Dr. Ernest Dupré. Presented at the Congrès des Médecins Aliénistes et Neurologistes, twelfth session, Grenoble, 1902.

In Dr. Parant's "Letter from Paris," published in this issue, is an abstract of the report on self-accusers. The letter sufficiently indicates for our purpose the nature of the contents of M. Dupré's monograph. The subject has not been rehearsed on this side of the water to the extent apparent with the French authors, and it is interesting to conjecture how much this indifference in the United States depends upon the rank of the self-accuser as a *rara avis* among Americans and to what extent it is explained by the greater placidity of the national temperament, which fails to be aroused into attention by the occurrence of romantic self-accusation. Probably each condition is partially responsible for the absence of literature upon the subject, though the national temperament is the main factor in that it is not the variety of soil which produces either the self-accuser or his sympathizing portrayer. The author gives to alcoholism the first place and to degeneracy the second place in the production of self-accusers. Both classes are comparatively less numerous in the United States while the French are notorious for excessive emotional mobility and lack of mental balance. The lesser frequency among Americans of hysteria, a disturbance commonly associated with self-accusation, is in itself partially explanatory of our unfamiliarity with the subject. The strain of our fast life is, however, producing a type approaching that of the common French *déséquilibré*, and it may behoove us to await the outcropping of the genus *autoaccusateur*, meanwhile fortifying ourselves with sufficient knowledge of his characteristics and the best mode of handling him.

The practical bearing of the subject for the French, and perhaps for ourselves in the near future, is found in the suggestion that every self-accuser should receive careful medical and especially physical examination in order that injustice may be prevented. On this side of the Atlantic at the present time such precaution would not require the appointment of a very large staff of psychiatrists.

Whatever be the relative importance of the study of the subject here and in France, there can be no doubt in the mind of the careful reader of the excellence of M. Dupré's report. It has been compiled with analytic accuracy, scientific nicety of detail and order of construction provocative of intense admiration, and places for the reader the whole subject in a nutshell.

W. McD.

Thirty-second Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 1901; also, the