

particularly deplorable personal reference at p. 417 which might well have been spared.

The fundamental difficulty in the author's psychological theory is his ambiguous treatment of the self. He speaks of it, now as a product and process of development, in terms which seem to identify it with the moral character, again as a mysterious something behind character and acting causally upon it. The discussions of particular virtues in part ii., if somewhat too diffuse, are, to my mind, the most suggestive things in the whole book. In part iii. the attack on "utilitarianism" is too bitter to be discriminating. Egoistic Hedonism may be an illogical theory, but an egoistic Hedonist need not in practice be a worse man than his neighbours; it is mere vituperation to assert that "few prostitutes are so vile" as to be egoistic Hedonists.

The religious problems raised and in part treated by Prof. Ladd are too grave to be dealt with in a summary note like the present.

A. E. T.

The Thompson Yates Laboratories Report. Edited by Robert Boyce and C. S. Sherrington. Vol. iv., part i., 1901, and vol. iv., part ii., 1902. Pp. 563. (London: Longmans and Co.)

THE first ninety pages of part i. of this Report are occupied by a description of the filariæ or blood-worms obtained by the Liverpool Expedition to Nigeria. This practically constitutes a monograph upon this important group of parasites, is from the pen of Messrs. Annett, Dutton and Elliott, and a number of new species are described and illustrated. Dealing with human filariæ, the opinion is expressed that, notwithstanding certain differences between them, the weight of evidence is on the side of the identity of *Filaria nocturna* and *F. diurna*. The bibliography accompanying this paper should prove of the greatest value to future workers in the subject. The other important papers in part i. are the "Flora of the Conjunctiva in Health and Disease," by Dr. Griffith, and the use of bile-salt broth as a test for faecal contamination, by Drs. MacConkey and Hill. The former gives a very complete account of the bacteriology of the conjunctival sac, and, like Lawson, Griffith has found the Xerosis bacillus to be a common inhabitant of the normal sac. In MacConkey and Hill's bile-salt broth we have a very useful medium for the detection of the *Bacillus coli* and allied species in water, but the procedure recommended, viz. to add 1 c.c. of the water to each of three tubes, would detect, in all probability, only a highly polluted water, not one in which the *B. coli* was present in small amount, in which case it is essential to concentrate the water by filtration through a porcelain filter and to examine the deposit. The same remarks apply to the examination of samples of the Liverpool water supply; the quantity of water examined (1 c.c.) is far too little to give a trustworthy negative result.

In part ii., Mr. Macdonald contributes an exhaustive paper upon the "Injury Current of Nerve," and Dr. Grünbaum and Prof. Sherrington make an important contribution to the physiology of the cerebral cortex in the higher apes. Dr. Annett produces some startling figures relative to the frequency of expectoration in public thoroughfares and the risk of infection with tuberculosis therefrom. The volume contains several other papers of minor importance upon various points of bacteriological, pathological and clinical interest, and concludes with the Report of the Liverpool Expedition to Brazil to study yellow fever, by Dr. Durham and the late Dr. Myers. The latter is somewhat disappointing, the ætiology of yellow fever being left very much where it was, save that a fine bacillus, difficult to stain and impossible to cultivate, was detected in the tissues.

In conclusion, it may be said that these volumes maintain in every respect the standard of their predecessors.

R. T. H.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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Sunset Effects.

AT Baveno (Lago Maggiore) on the evening of July 10, when the sun was setting behind the mountains in the north western quarter of the horizon, a number of bright streaks of light appeared to radiate from behind a bank of clouds in exactly the opposite quarter of the sky. As these streaks were very bright near the point from which they apparently emanated and gradually faded away with increasing distance from that point, the effect was to produce the impression that the sun had set in the south-east instead of in the north-west. The explanation of the phenomenon is perfectly simple, being that the beams of sunlight, cut off by clouds and mountains, had travelled overhead through a clear atmosphere and, reaching the hazy air over the plains of Lombardy, had illuminated this air, which was especially thick at a point opposite the sun, the streaks appearing to converge to a vanishing point by the laws of perspective. The effect no doubt occurs whenever the necessary conditions prevail, viz., banks of clouds or mountains in the direction of the setting sun, a clear sky overhead and a thick atmosphere in the quarter opposite the sun.

G. H. BRYAN.

THE letter on iridescent sunset effects in the current number of NATURE (p. 370), and the correspondence now going on in the columns of *Science*, prompt me to send the following extract from my journal which was made on board the barquentine *Dayspring* while lying at anchor in Friday Island Passage, Torres Straits, on November 29, 1897:—

"The sun was setting behind cumulostratus clouds, while a little to the southward the horizon was occupied by a large storm cloud through which lightning was constantly playing, and other clouds of various types were scattered over the sky. Behind the storm cloud and between it and the sun were several very fine even textured cirrostratus patches; these assumed prismatic coloration. The colours were very vivid and included the blues and greens as well as those of the red end of the spectrum; and they appeared to be arranged in the sequence of Newton's rings. The appearance of the clouds reminded me of a polarisation phenomenon. The colours were disposed in broad concentric bands shading into one another; they appeared to be dependent upon the thickness of the cloud mass, and were most brilliant at its thinner parts. The colours changed but slightly as the sun sank behind the horizon, but after a time the prismatic effect gave place to the ordinary sunset glow."

The phenomenon thus described made a great impression upon me at the time, and I am quite convinced that it had nothing in common with the normal "glow" reflected by the setting sun.

S. PACE.

Hounslow, August 18.

THE OLDER CIVILISATION OF GREECE: FURTHER DISCOVERIES IN CRETE.¹

IN a review of No. VI. of "The Annual of the British School at Athens," published last year (vol. lxiv. p. 11), the great importance of the discoveries of Mr. A. J. Evans at Knossos in Crete was pointed out, and the opinion was expressed that that volume contained "matter of extraordinary interest to students of the history, not only of Greece, of Egypt, and Western Asia, but also of mankind in general," for, since "the culture which now dominates the world is the child of the civilisation of Ancient Greece, . . . any archaeological discovery which tends to increase our knowledge of the beginnings of Greek civilisation possesses an importance and an

¹ "The Annual of the British School at Athens." Part vii. Session 1900-1901. Pp. vii + 191. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.)