ticular act, was the loss due to disease, and not to "heat of passion," intoxication or other self-induced temporary mental disturbance?

JELLIFFE.

244. OLFACTORY HALLUCINATIONS IN THE INSANE. F. St. John Bullen (*Journal of Mental Science*, 45, 1899, p. 513).

From a series of 95 cases in whom olfactory hallucinations were presumed to be present, collected from various asylums, the author presents some interesting observations. In a few cases the distinction between illusions and hallucinations were not possible. Such hallucinations are most commonly found among the chronic delusional psychoses, especially connected with persecutory ideas. The author does not believe that there is any direct relationship between the reproductive system and the sense of smell, but that there is some underlying connection cannot be entirely excluded. Inasmuch as smell occupies such a minor role in the relations of society, it seems that it is tardily affected in the breaking down of the insane, but if found it would seem to indicate some fundamental and grave defect. It can only be looked for when some close and often excited association is aroused, such as that of taste, or when some general implication of the senses, of a fundamental kind, exists. Much evidence must be required to show that an hallucination of the olfactory sense when occurring singly, is directly related to a morbid condition of the reproductive system, but when a connection is affirmed in the presence of several hallucinations—*i. e.*, of a general sensory disturbance—there must be a danger of overlooking other factors in the case. It is not possible, however, to write except as to the possibilities in this subject, for the authors who have laid stress upon an olfactory-sexual nexus may have had the very instances in support of their views that the present writer has failed to secure. Such an association would show much more distinctly when met with in early cases of insanity and among the more educated classes, whose sensations are better observed, and in whom the function of smell has been enlarged by more varied and numerous experiences than have fallen to the lot of the pauper inmates of asylums.

JELLIFFE.

245. CAUSES OF THE INCREASE OF SUICIDE. W. W. Ireland (*Journal of Mental Science*, 45, 1899, p. 451).

Ireland in a careful review of the general subject of suicide gives some interesting facts and ideas worthy of epitomizing. Among other things he says: "Most of the causes which impel men to seek their own death are the same in the sane and insane. People get weary of life and seek death because they are unhappy. Their misery overpowers the natural love of life. Self destruction in the sane naturally takes place amongst persons who feel hopelessly ruined or disgraced, or subject to some pain or overwhelming affliction, from which they are unable to escape. Though a few men may destroy themselves in cold blood, it may safely be inferred that before being impelled to an action so repugnant to nature, most men are in a very troubled or distracted frame of mind. For some time their minds have been unhinged; they have lost their appetite for food, or have been sleepless for many nights. The unquiet mind has acted upon the body, and the disturbed bodily functions have reacted upon the mind." A practice so widely spread as suicide undoubtedly has many causes, yet the mental factors are believed to be the most potent. Among these the religious feelings are interesting. Suicide seems most common among those holding materialistic or fatalistic doctrines, and it is to the supposed increase in materialism that the alleged increase in suicides in Europe and North America is due. And where agnosticism most abounds, as in large cities, suicides are most common. [Other factors abound in such places also.]

JELLIFFE.