

Book Reviews

MODERN THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY. By C. Bernaldo de Quiros. Translated from the Spanish by Alfonso de Salvio, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Romance Languages, Northwestern University. Little, Brown & Company, Boston.

It would appear that at last the sun of enlightenment had commenced to break on the darkness of criminology as it is understood in the United States. It has been a long time coming, but even the hide bound conservation of legal institutions has commenced to feel the uplift, and now, more than a quarter of a century behind the procession, the lawyer is commencing to sit up, and take notice.

The American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology is responsible for the good work, and we trust it will prosper, for the times are propitious, and the needs are tremendous.

The opening volume of this Modern Criminal Science Series, is all that could be desired. Written by a most brilliant student of the subject, well in touch with modern criminological research, at least in the Latin countries, it is well calculated to quicken interest, and to disseminate knowledge where it has been greatly needed.

The author has discussed modern theories of criminology, but has unfortunately limited himself to the workers in the Latin countries. In one sense he leans too much to the anthropological teachings, neglecting the individualistic trends demanded by really later day psychiatry.

In overlooking the psychiatric mode of approach, the author fails to be really modern. As a beginning, however, the work has been well chosen. The translation is free, yet adequate, and the book, as a whole, is well worth having.

JELLIFFE.

FEEBLEMINDED CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE. By. C. Paget Lepage, M.D., M.R.C.P., Lecturer in School Hygiene to the Manchester University, and Physician to the Manchester Children's Hospital. With an Appendix on Treatment and Training by Mary Dendy, M.A. Longmans, Green and Co., New York.

The problem of the feeble-minded child is becoming more and more acute in the United States; and deservedly so. So long as children just grew up; before our cities grew so large, and they could roam in the open; so long as competition was less keen, and a few extra mouths could be fed without stress in the family, just so long could the milder grades of feeble-mindedness, particularly, escape special notice. Nor did they call for specific modes of treatment.

But the presence of a more strenuous competitive existence makes the feeble-minded child much more of a problem, and one that demands an adequate adjustment.

Dr. Lepage has given an excellent clinical study; a very poor presentation of the most important phase of heredity and feeble-mindedness,

from which quarter much relief is to be expected; an inadequate pathological discussion, but some most excellent general ideas regarding modes of treatment.

It is a fair book for a beginner in the general subject. We find no practical attention given to the grading tests so elaborately worked out by Binet, and now widely adopted by most active workers. He has scratched the surface, given some attractive descriptions, but nothing more. A very incomplete bibliography shows that practically only English sources have been consulted.

JELLIFFE.

AN EPITOME OF VOLUNTARY AUTOSUGGESTION. By Geraud Bonnet. (Rousset, 1910. Paris.)

"To ameliorate the individual, and consequently to develop physical vigor, moral energy and firmness of character, to perfect and maintain well-being, particular and general by simple methods available to everyone, such is the aim of this book."

Truly a modest endeavor. Let us see how the author has acquitted himself. Hereditary deficiencies he thinks are neither indelible nor irreparable, but man can by his own will, properly educated and applied, diminish his weaknesses and faults and strengthen his good qualities. Chance and hazard govern to only a slight extent and if we cannot always influence events favorably to ourselves, we can at least diminish their ill effects. The innate forces of the organism have been too long neglected. Of these voluntary autosuggestion is one by the use of which we may not only become masters of ourselves but may favorably influence other persons. By its aid one may develop the strength of his own personality, gain a position in the community and become "*someone*." The subject is considered in eight chapters under the following headings. I. Preliminary Notions. II. Hypnotism and Autohypnotism. III. Autosuggestion. IV. Education of the Will. V. On Self-confidence. VI. Concentration of Thought. VII. Personal Power. VIII. Résumé. The first two chapters are devoted to a general view of the facts of hypnotism and suggestion. The author thinks that there is in man and in many animals a personal force which is a variety of electricity, and that the strength of personal influence, the attraction or repulsion which one is capable of exerting upon his neighbors may be dependent upon this force. The so-called "nerve force" may be of an electrical nature. This is an important element in the "Personal Power," the necessity for the cultivation of which and the means to this end form the burden of the whole work. The author is evidently a firm believer in the efficacy of hypnotism, but seems to draw it a little strong when he claims that not only character, thought and will may be altered, but physical malformations may be corrected through suggestion. Autosuggestion is suggestion made by one to himself. Under ordinary circumstances it is usually involuntary, sometimes conscious, sometimes not—and forms an important part of our mental processes. It is doubtless at the bottom of a large number of morbid manifestations both mental and physical. As examples of the latter class the author mentions some cases of the vomiting of pregnancy and of enuresis which have yielded to suggestion. While involuntary autosuggestion may be pernicious, voluntary autosuggestion can convey useful suggestions. To encourage its use to and to tell how to cultivate it to best advantage the author has prepared this book.