

individual is proved morbid by rough contrast with the average, but M. Duprat contrasts all present societies, not with the average, but with the ideal. On the whole, however, this work, if insufficiently systematic, is both interesting and suggestive.

T. LOVEDAY.

*Des Religions Comparées au point de vue Sociologique.* Par RAOUL DE LA GRASSERIE, lauréat de l'Institut de France, Correspondant du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, Associé de l'Institut International de Sociologie, Membre de la Société des Gens de lettres, de l'Académie de législation de Toulouse, de la Société de législation comparée, Docteur en droit, Juge au Tribunal de Rennes, officier de l'Instruction Publique. [Bibliothèque Sociologique Internationale.] Paris: V. Giard & E. Brière, 1899. Pp. 896.

To synthesise all religions (with the help of several histories of religion, not, however, the newest), to discover in them the common object of establishing harmonious social relations between man and the other 'beings' of the cosmos (vegetables, animals, demons and gods alike), and to formulate the laws governing the intercourse proper to such a "*supra-société*" or "*hypersociété*," such has been M. de la Grasserie's labour of love, and thereby has "the science of cosmosociology" come into existence. The book proclaims itself a study in pure cosmosociology, and as such appeals primarily to the pure cosmosociologist. The author hopes that the Paris Exhibition of 1900 may witness a Congress of Religions, which shall inaugurate a universal religion by eliminating the "uncivilised" religions, by encouraging all to practise two religions just as one learns to speak two languages, and by promoting "syncretism or fusion". To such a Congress the book will certainly prove useful. Meanwhile, the student of Religion at its comparative level cannot fail to derive therefrom many a hint as to the advantage of applying the ideas of the higher sociology to the particular 'organism' whose habits he studies. A flood of light, for instance, is let in upon Moses' procedure in raising up a brazen serpent before the eyes of the Israelites by recognising it to have been a case of religious "vaccination". In short, only the "impious" man, "*l'anarchiste de la société cosmique*," is likely to pronounce the book either fantastic or superfluous.

R. R. MARETT.

*Le Problème de la Mémoire; Essai de Psycho-Mécanique.* Par le Dr. PAUL SOLLIER. Paris: Félix Alcan. Pp. 218. Price 8 fr. 75.

This book does not profess to be a theory of memory. The author holds that there is room for an examination of the problem of memory from the standpoint not of psychology or physiology but of pure physics; and accordingly he draws out analogies between the phenomena of memory or of its correlated brain processes and those of magnetism and electricity. The value of such exercises is open to question; to those who find amusement or profit in them this work should prove interesting, for Dr. Sollier shows abundance of ingenuity. The analogy of which he makes most use is that of an accumulator. However, the greater part of the book is given up to psychological and still more to physiological questions, which have to be settled before appropriate physical analogies can be found. The first chapter is an interesting, though not altogether accurate, discussion of previous views; chapter ii. deals with Fixation and Conservation; chapter iii. with Evocation and Reproduction; and chapter iv. with Recognition and Localisation. The last chapter treats of the evolution, seat, and mechanism of memory. As regards the 'seat,' Dr.

Sollier comes to the conclusion that there are (1) centres of reception which are also centres of representation, and (2) centres of perception—*viz.*, the frontal lobes—which are also centres of conservation and evocation. 'The phenomenon of evocation includes the study of all the conditions and influences that prepare the way for reproduction.' The discussion is clear, but it would gain by condensation. Occasionally we meet with very novel statements, and the grounds for them are not always given—*e.g.*, the assertion of 'parallel' alteration of 'cerebral activity' and electrical resistance of the brain is quite valueless apart from an accurate account of experimental conditions and a full record of figures, etc. (p. 198). On p. 176 ff. observations are repeated from the author's previous work on *Hysteria*. Some of them are very remarkable and require confirmation, as does his whole doctrine of 'cerebral coenesthesia'.

T. L.

*Les Troubles Mentaux de l'Enfance: Précis de Psychiatrie Infantile avec les Applications Pédagogiques et Médico-légales.* Par le Dr. MARCEL MANHEIMER, Ancien Interne des Asiles de la Seine, etc. Préface de M. le Professeur Joffroy. Paris: Société d'Éditions Scientifiques, 1899. Pp. 188.

This little treatise is what it professes to be—a *précis* of what is best in the recent studies of infantile mental troubles. Full references are given. The book thus provides the elementary student with all he requires, and prepares for him a line of future study. Dr. Manheimer, starting from the "evolution of the infant in the normal state," summarises, in the first part, the causes of insanity. In the second part, *Nomenclature*, he gives a chapter to each leading division—troubles of the feelings, intelligence, including attention, memory, etc., activity, impulses, will. In the third part, he classifies mental diseases. The classification, which follows Magnan and Krafft-Ebing, aims less at theoretical freedom from cross-divisions than at didactic sufficiency. The main groups are first, pure psychoses, including mania, melancholia and recurrent insanity; second, states of degeneration,—the deliriums, with troubles of intelligence, feelings, etc.; third, the neuroses,—some being really degenerations, but special enough to demand a class apart; fourth, toxic insanities; fifth, as supplementary, the dementias,—states of regression; sixth, states of arrest—idiotcy, imbecility. Only the features special to children are elaborated. The fourth part is *Médico-légal*. It deals with responsibility in infants, varieties of criminal infants, infant evidence and suicide. The fifth part deals with treatment and public assistance. There is a statistical appendix. The little book shows a vast amount of sifted reading; it is relevant and adequate in its summary of opinions, and, accordingly, it is a good handbook to the practical study of insanity in children. There is not much room in the book for discussion of psychological refinements, but the paragraphs on "traitement psychologique" show a careful study of suggestion. Great stress is laid on the "illusion of sleep" in non-hysterics. The illusion is found to be sufficient, "car elle peut être rendue très forte" (p. 160). And so the Charcot view of the true hypnotic sleep as possible only in hysterics is saved.

W. LESLIE MACKENZIE.

*Le Problème des Sexes.* Par JACQUES LOURDET. Paris: Giard et Briere, 1900. Pp. 301.

This work is the twenty-fourth volume of the International Library of Sociology, and it speaks well for the interest which is taken in Sociological