

familiar to psychologists everywhere to require an exposition of its subject matter in this Journal.

The few points in which revision has been effected may be briefly noted: —

The author has endeavored to make it more apparent than heretofore that the volume is one of a series of genetic studies of the mind, the others being, "Social and Ethical Interpretations in Mental Development," "Development and Evolution" and "Thought and Things," the last being the first of two volumes on "Genetic Logic."

The chapters have been arranged in groups according to the nature of the matter presented and contain, first, A presentation of the Methodology; second, The Experimental Foundation; third, Biological Development; and fourth, The Development of Conscious Processes.

An appendix is added containing two brief notes on the subjects, Profiting by Experience and Imitation, and on Fluctuations of Attention. An attempt is made to bring the facts into line with the author's well-known theories of imitation and of dynamogenesis.

KARL T. WAUGH

CORRESPONDENCE*

Next to the question of the spread of tuberculosis there is none which is of greater importance in medicine and sociology than that of the etiology of insanity. Religion as one of the causes assigned by the statistician is, I think, generally discredited at the present, except as admitting that in the highly emotional forms it may act as an exciting cause for some neuroses, very acute and more nearly allied to hysteria than to true insanity of a chronic character.

But if we admit as having at least equal and probably much greater influence on the formation of morbid associations and fixed ideas, the present psychic doctrines of healing and pseudo-religious cults, can this class of emotions and ideas be kept so far in the background? Will not the differences between the teachings of the different sects be brought out most sharply by a

*The writer of the above is a prominent neurologist whose name is withheld by his request lest the persons referred to in the letter may be identified.—
EDITOR.

knowledge of what may be coincidences, but which also look very much like logical results? Such are some which have come within the observation of the writer within a short time or have been noted in the public prints.

A young man, the son of a Christian Science mother, himself a "reader" had betrothed to another, was a well marked case of dementia praecox. In the hospital he alleviated the sufferings of his fellows by reading to them from the Bible of the sect. His friends wisely, but very inconsistently as it seems to me, took away his books apparently with excellent results.

A woman for many years a zealous Christian Science "reader" developed the idea that she had been reduced by hypnotism to absolute moral or spiritual nothingness, had been mentally destroyed beyond hope or possibility of redemption. She had been under the care of a Christian Science nurse who read to her from the Bible of the sect. Although able to control herself perfectly for a purpose, she never admitted a moment's relief of her misery, walking the floor for hours denouncing the authoress of her woe. It was impossible to ascertain at this time whether she had repudiated her former doctrines or simply despaired of their efficacy in her own case. She was successful in her suicide, evidently planned for a long time.

At about this time occurred the suicide of a prominent Christian Science "reader" the sister of a man even more eminent who also escaped her nurse.

Then also appeared in the papers the report of a "mind reader and healer" who had so firmly impressed her followers with her doctrines that they would not believe in her death, although she had left directions for her cremation.

And at last comes the announcement which to disbelievers seems a strange thing to come from such source, that the foundress herself has for years suffered from the terrors of a belief (which her "next friends" call a "delusion" but which is shared by many of her disciples as part of the doctrine) in the possibility of a hostile and destructive influence by evil-minded persons even on the minds of true believers, a malignant animal magnetism.

Who shall protect the protectors? Who shall teach the teachers?