

we heartily commend it to those who are looking for a treatment of this difficult subject.

We can scarcely refrain, however, from a remark with regard to the book-making. Altogether the book contains about 550 pages, or with the index 570, and yet, owing to the paper used in it, it has become a heavy, cumbersome volume, quite tiresome to handle. Why cannot we have the real hand books printed on lighter paper, with lighter binding, such as are so common in England and France.

WALSH.

KRIMINALPSYCHOLOGIE UND STRAFTLICHE PSYCHOPATHOLOGIE AUF NATURWISSENSCHAFTLICHER GRUNDLAGE. VON ROBERT SOMMER, M.D., Ph.D. O., Professor of Psychiatrie in the University of Giessen. Johann Ambrosius Barth, Leipsig.

Prof. Sommer has always interested himself in the relations of the criminal character to psychological norms. The son of an eminent jurist, since 1894 he has contributed regularly to the subject, at first to the Dresden Society for Psychiatry, and later his work at Giessen has brought him very closely in contact with social defectives. These have been welcomed in his clinic at Giessen, and much progress has been made in the study of the criminal types.

The present work does not attempt a thorough discussion of criminal psychology. After an introductory chapter on the German criminal code, he takes up various examples of deviates, whose variation from average standards is liable to bring them into conflict with the social safeguards. Various psychopathic states are discussed, special chapters being devoted to imbecility, dementias, paranoia, etc. The epileptic type is thoroughly analyzed. Especially interesting chapters are those on "Prison Psychoses" and on "Simulation of Insanity." The latter is particularly suggestive and helpful.

The author has been instrumental in bringing the modes of procedure with reference to criminal law more in accord with the teachings of modern psychiatric science, and chapters 17, 19, 20 and 22 are full of well-considered ideas bearing on this important topic. The work is a very worthy one.

JELLIFFE.

A TREATISE ON DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. BY L. HARRISON METTLER, A.M., M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, College of Medicine of the University of Illinois; Professor of Mental and Nervous Diseases in the Chicago Clinical School; Consulting Neurologist to the Norwegian Deaconess' Home and Hospital, Chicago. Cleveland Press, Chicago, 1905.

Mettler's book is a big one, six pounds and a half avoirdupois. Its scope, however, is far from exhaustive. The reason for this appears to be that the author spends much time on principles, essaying to deduce symptoms from the physiology of disease. This is an admirable design, but hard to execute, and the author at times is exasperated by his difficulties. Only thus can we account for his attacks (p. 630) upon those who, he says, "must show how a relatively inert nerve fibre . . . can . . . give rise to the most excruciating agony . . . in opposition to all the teachings of physiology;" or (p. 40) his gloating over those unfortunates "pushed to the wall" for speaking of functional diseases as "without change of structure;" or (p. 716) his invective against "some physiologists" with their "narrow way" of limiting the cortical centers—"puerile, grossly materialistic and absolutely unwarranted by any scientific proof worthy of the name;" or (p. 791) his disgust with "this so-called higher visual center" which "is not only hypothetical but unsupported by the slightest shadow of anatomical evidence. It is a sorry makeshift from one dilemma into another." Surely this polemic manner is out of place in a text-book.