

Irish Local Government, etc. No one can doubt his patriotism or his sincere desire to arrive at the actual truth; and no one will deny him the right to use the motto from Montaigne which he places on his title-page: "Ce livre est de bonne foi."

Demon-possession and Allied Themes; being an inductive study of phenomena of our own times. By Rev. John L. Nevius, D.D., for forty years a missionary to the Chinese. Fleming H. Revell Co. 1894.

How the belief in demoniacal possession (which is one of the most articulately expressed doctrines of both Testaments, and which reigned for seventeen hundred years, hardly challenged, in all the churches) should have become the utterly dead letter which it now is in Christian countries, is an interesting historical question on which the present reviewer is unable to cast light. Its decay is far less intelligible than the decay of the belief in witchcraft, which Mr. Lecky has so vividly attributed to an unreasoned alteration of the intellectual fashions of the age, for most of the old witchcraft-accusations rested on direct demon-testimony, and the phenomenon which announces itself as demon-possession has never ceased since men were men, and is probably as frequent at the present day in New York and Boston as it ever has been at any time and place in history. It follows at all times the local and temporal fashions and traditions, and, from causes which, once more, would form a highly interesting problem to unravel, it has with us assumed a benign and optimistic, instead of a diabolical and hurtful form, constituting what is familiarly known to-day as *mediumship*. It differs from all the classic types of insanity. Its attacks are periodic and brief, usually not lasting more than an hour or two, and the patient is entirely well between them, and retains no memory of them when they are over. During them, he speaks in an altered voice and manner, names himself differently, and describes his natural self in the third person as he would a stranger. The new impersonation offers every variety of completeness and energy, from the rudimentary form of unintelligible automatic scribbling, to the strongest convulsions with blasphemous outcries, or the most fluent "inspirational" speech. Imitation is a great determining factor, and suggestions from the bystanders are readily adopted and acted out. Exorcisms of various sorts often succeed in abolishing the condition, and the possessing spirit often makes treaties and compacts with the bystanders and carries them faithfully out. The condition may become epidemic, as in our own "developing circles," or in those Alpine villages whose "hystero-demonopathy" has recently been so well described by the French and Italian medical officials Constans, Chiap, and Franzolini; but more often it is sporadic and individual. At any rate it is a perfectly distinct and it may be a perfectly spontaneous "morbid entity" (as a Frenchman would say), or natural type of disease, and its essential characters seem to have been quite constant in every age and clime.

Of its causes, apart from suggestion and imitation, absolutely nothing definite is known, the psychical-researchers being the only persons who at present seem to believe that it offers a serious problem for investigation. The Charcot school has assimilated it to hysterical major, with which it unquestionably has generic affinities, but just why its specific peculiarities are what they are, this school leaves

unexplained. The name hysteria, it must be remembered, is not an explanation of anything, but merely the title of a new set of problems. The tendency to prophesy, to profess to reveal remote facts, to make diagnoses and heal diseases, are among the commonest features of the demonopathic state.

Dr. Nevius is vouched for by the two editors of the book before us (he having died before its publication) as a singularly learned, versatile, and accurate man. His volume contains, in addition to a large amount of comparative natural history of the subject and a mass of bibliography, a number of interesting first-hand observations made in China. As in the Grecian oracles, in India, Japan, Polynesia, and elsewhere, the possessed person is in China prone to speak in the name of a god. This god often demands a shrine, worship, incense, food, and burnt-offerings from the household, and throws the patient into convulsions if these are withheld. Sometimes, again, a departed relative or other human being announces itself as the possessing spirit, but we seem not to hear in China of fox-demons as we hear of them in Japan. Dr. Nevius's book contains a great variety of cases, of which we have not space to extract a specimen. They are collected by missionaries or native Christian converts, and the remarkable thing about them is the almost invariable efficacy of Christian rites and invocations in setting the possessed person free. In China the name of Christ would seem to have even greater power to drive out demons than it had in Europe in the ages of faith.

One case related by the author has a curious analogy to one of the New Testament miracles. Two women of a Chinese village having been dispossessed by Christian services,

"an extraordinary commotion occurred among the fowls, . . . who after a while cowered up in a corner of the yard in a state of fright. The swine also belonging to the family were put into a singular state of agitation, rushing about the enclosure, running over each other, and trying to scramble up the walls. The swine would not eat, and this state of disquiet continued until they were exhausted. These manifestations naturally excited a great deal of interest and remark, and were accounted for by the supposition that the demons had taken possession of the fowls and swine" (p. 400).

It is but just to say that this particular account is at second hand, the witnesses being a Chinese family of converts. Such as it is, Dr. Nevius's book is one of the best contributions to the natural history of the subject, and a stepping-stone towards that not yet existing book which some day will treat this class of phenomena in a thoroughly objective and unprejudiced way, bringing it into comparison with all the other features of the "subliminal" life of which it is one modification.

Major James Rennell and the Rise of Modern English Geography. By Clements R. Markham. Macmillan & Co. 1895. [The Century Science Series.] 8vo, pp. 232.

It is a singular fact that Great Britain, with possessions in every part of the world, should have produced so few geographers. She has sent out a host of distinguished explorers who have added vastly to our knowledge of the earth, but the task of constructing "the mother of all the sciences" has been left mainly to Continental scholars. Had not the subject of this biography been incapacitated early in life from active service, it is not impossible that England might have had to wait another half-century for a great scientific geographer. The

story of Major Rennell's uneventful career is quickly told. He was born in 1742 and enlisted in the navy as a midshipman at the age of thirteen. In 1763 he entered the service of the East India Company and was made Surveyor-General of Bengal. Badly wounded in a fight with the natives in 1766 (not 1776, as Mr. Markham incorrectly states), his constitution was permanently injured. This and his arduous labors in connection with his field survey compelled his retirement in 1777. The remainder of his life was spent in London, where he won for himself by his maps and his writings the place of "leading geographer in England, if not in Europe, for a period of fifty years." He died in 1830 and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Major Rennell had this immense advantage over many other great geographers, D'Anville and Ritter, for instance, that he had been a surveyor, both afloat and ashore, before he devoted himself to the study of geography as a science. Much of his work, therefore, has a value beyond that of a mere contribution to knowledge. His investigations of the Atlantic currents, for example, by which he became the "father of oceanography," distinctly diminished the perils of navigation. It was he, it may be added, who first conceived of the Gulf Stream as "an immense river descending from a higher level into a plain." His first important published work was a 'Memoir of a Map of Hindustan,' which passed quickly to a second and third edition by 1793, and gained for him the Copley Medal of the Royal Society. Following this was his 'Geography of Herodotus,' which, together with the 'Illustrations' of the Anabasis, was part of a contemplated great work on the 'Comparative Geography of Western Asia,' for which he gathered all the materials, but which he did not live to complete. In addition to these and other books, he contributed papers to learned societies besides aiding the various exploring expeditions of his day. He was especially interested in Mungo Park's travels, and he prepared the map which accompanied Park's account of them.

It is hardly necessary to say that no one is so well fitted as Mr. Markham to be Major Rennell's biographer. He is in full sympathy with the latter's pursuits, and has the requisite knowledge to enable him to put a just estimate on what he accomplished. In fact, the book is more than a biography; it is a condensed history of geography, with sketches of distinguished geographers from Strabo down to Sir Henry Rawlinson. His abundant knowledge, indeed, leads Mr. Markham to be needlessly exact in minute, especially genealogical, details. Occasionally he errs in taste, as, for instance, when, mentioning by name some relatives of Mrs. Rennell's, he says, "the —s lived in a very expensive style, and Mr. — drove a four-in-hand, so that when he died, in 1700, he left his property much embarrassed." Apart from these petty blemishes, he has produced a valuable book, and one as interesting as the nature of the subject would permit. A useful index is appended, but we miss what would have been even more desirable, a chronological list of Major Rennell's works.

Mental Development in the Child and the Race: Methods and Processes. By James Mark Baldwin, M.A., Ph.D., Stuart Professor of Psychology in Princeton University. With 17 figures and 10 tables. Macmillan. 1895. Pp. xvi, 496.

It is not to be concealed that this book is not well-written. The author himself makes no

effort to do so—he recognizes it rather with a charming frankness. He speaks of the conflicting aims he had in writing it, of his inability to hit upon an arrangement of his material that would satisfy him, of the “need of a patient reader before the page.” In spite of liberal warnings in the preface, and of statements of the problem and of what the several chapters contain, the perplexed reader about the three-hundredth page is inclined to throw the book aside, or to wish, when he finds the scattered threads at last being drawn together, that it had been written just backwards. The pages are too full, too well-fed. There is a central problem, a main discussion, but it lies so imbedded in remarks and considerations by the way that one is perpetually losing sight of it. Prof. Baldwin is essentially an inquirer at first hand, and he carries his method over into his exposition; he begins with his apparatus, he keeps one in suspense, he determines his shortcomings, he goes into side issues, he shows one his uncompleted work. With the best intentions in the world he is bewildering. And his sentences at times are as puzzling as his order of exposition. And yet, when one has vented one's spleen, one's abiding impression of the book is very favorable. Its pages breathe something of the intimacy, the frankness, the personal charm of a clever investigator's note-book. The fragmentary state of some of the experiments, the loose threads and ragged ends, give one the not unpleasant sense of being admitted behind the scenes, of seeing science in undress—in the making. And the substance of it all—of the experiments and discussions themselves—is capital.

“Mental Development: Methods and Processes” is a preliminary volume to be followed under the same general head by a companion sub-entitled “Interpretations: Educational, Social, and Ethical.” Prof. Baldwin regards it as the fundamental weakness of current sociology that there exists no theory of the *socius*. It is this deficiency which his projected volume will endeavor to supply. The present one, leading up to it, yet possessing an independent value, deals with the evolution in the individual of conduct adapted to environment and of voluntary self-control. The hypothesis which has hitherto obtained the widest acceptance is best known in the form Prof. Bain gave it in his “Emotions and the Will.” Granted, it says (what seems to be the observable fact), that the earliest movements of the new-born individual are quite at random, and that activity which results in pleasure tends to be continued and that which results in pain to be stopped, it may be shown according to mere natural selection how there would arise in the lapse of time habits of pursuing pleasure and avoiding pain, and a connection more or less complete between pleasurable and wholesomeness, pain and harm. This hypothesis, so far as it goes, Prof. Baldwin accepts, but it goes nothing like the whole way.

(1.) It proceeds as if all pleasures and pains came to the organism originally as effects of (random) movement on its part—which is in the majority of instances quite the opposite of the truth—“turns the case completely over,” as Prof. Baldwin says, “and stands it on its head.” It is the environment (including the living creatures that in part constitute it) that commonly takes the initiative, brings to bear on the organism some fresh stimulus of pleasure or pain—it is to this in the main, if not exclusively, that the “random movements,” when they exist, are due.

(2.) It proceeds as if the organism were entirely dependent on the environment for the

repetition of an agreeable stimulus; whereas the fact is, that the organism possesses the power of *imitation* (Prof. Baldwin calls it), of taking a hint, of eking out the gaps in a defective environment and securing the repetition of a desirable stimulus by efforts of its own.

These two positions Prof. Baldwin argues with much point, in detail. Of their importance as completions of the Spencer-Bain theory of development, there can hardly be dispute. But whether the second of them is as distinctly an addition to that theory as is the first—whether *imitation* is an independent factor in the result—is something more doubtful. Adherents of the Spencer-Bain theory have commonly held that, if the hypothesis of random movements and “lucky” chances would account for adapted conduct of any kind, it would account for *imitation*.

This is the main current of the book, but, as has already been indicated, the discussion is of a richness and breadth of which the foregoing gives but a scant idea. Notably there are some admirable chapters early in the book on Distance- and Color-Perception by Infants, the Origin of Right-Handedness, the Rise of Tracery Imitation and the Origin and Analysis of Handwriting, and on Suggestions.

Essays and Studies. By John Churton Collins. Macmillan. 1895.

UNDER the unpretentious title of ‘Essays and Studies,’ Mr. Churton Collins has collected into a single volume five of his contributions to periodical literature. Two of these papers—“John Dryden” and “The Predecessors of Shakspeare”—are of considerable importance. The third, “Lord Chesterfield's Letters,” is interesting, but drives its thesis to such an exaggeration as to fail of convincing. The fourth, “The Porson of Shaksperian Criticism,” is a labored attempt to rehabilitate Theobald. The fifth, “Menander,” is of little moment. We shall confine our remarks to the first two essays, contenting ourselves, as to the fourth, with the suggestion that Mr. Collins is not the discoverer of Theobald, though he seems to think so.

Everybody knows Mr. Churton Collins's critical style, that curious combination of clearness, vigor, browbeating, and exaggeration, inspired throughout with zeal to reverse some verdict of history. When the offensive qualities are held in check—or, in other words, when Mr. Collins does not forget his manners—the directness and perspicuity of his diction are refreshing in these days of superfine critical slang and cant. One is always sure that he has a meaning and that he knows what his meaning is—two certainties not always attaching to some critics less old-fashioned. One feels sure, besides, that Mr. Collins is coming to something, right or wrong, and that also is a comfort. All these good qualities are present in the essay on Dryden, which is a good specimen of sober and virile criticism. We doubt if there is anything better on the subject. The author's weakness for reversing verdicts contents itself with a defence of Dryden's personal morality, and such a defence can do no harm if it brings the reader to consider. In literary matters the critic holds the balance well, and does not sacrifice truth to rhetoric. If he adds nothing to our knowledge of facts, he at least assists the settlement of our opinions.

The second paper in the volume, that on “The Predecessors of Shakspeare,” is not better done than the first, but it is of more

consequence. Its occasion was the publication of the late J. A. Symonds's “Shakspeare's Predecessors,” of which it is in part a critique, and a just critique. Its most valuable portion, however, begins after the critique is finished, and consists of a sketch of the history of the English drama from its origin to the time when Shakspeare entered upon his career. This is, in some respects, the best piece of work that Mr. Collins has ever done. It is a rapid sketch, and not always well-proportioned, but it has striking merits. In particular it states the relations of the English drama to Italian literature and to the classics more clearly and forcibly than they are stated elsewhere, and this is so considerable a service that we can pardon the inequalities, and even the inaccuracies, from which the paper is by no means free. We do not feel sure that Mr. Collins could write a good history of the drama on a large scale—that he is a poor editor was long ago proved by his attempt with the plays of Cyril Tourneur—but we cannot help wishing that he had tried it. The result, whatever its faults, would at least have possessed merits to which the ponderous and over-estimated work of Prof. A. W. Ward can make no pretensions.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Beautiful Britain: The Scenery and the Splendors of the United Kingdom. Chicago: The Werner Co. \$0.75.
Brown, H. E. Botsey Jane on Wheels. Chicago: W. B. Conkey Co. 25 cents.
Davis, Ethel. When Love Is Done: A Novel. Boston: Estes & Lauriat. \$1.25.
Fletcher, J. S. When Charles the First was King: A Romance. London: Gay & Bird; Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.50.
Foster, Mary F. Doty Douteare: A Story of the Garden of the Antilles. Boston: Estes & Lauriat. \$1.
Foster, Rev. A. J. Amphill Towers. T. Nelson & Sons. 80 cents.
Gift, Theo. An Island Princess: A Story of Six Weeks—and Afterwards. Putnam's. 50 cents.
Graduate Courses, 1895-'96. Macmillan. 25 cents.
Henneam Rbyn, Dr. Otto. Mysteries. J. Fitzgerald & Co. 50 cents.
Hillhouse, M. L. Storm King. G. W. Dillingham. 50 cents.
Hinsdale, Prof. B. A. The American Government, National and State. New and revised ed. Chicago: The Werner Co. \$1.50.
Hinsdale, R. A. Jesus as a Teacher. St. Louis: Christian Publishing Co.
Johnson's Universal Cyclopedia. New ed. Vol. VII. Appletons.
Kuphal, Otto. The Idiomatic Study of German. First Series. G. O. Peck.
Mallock, W. H. The Heart of Life. Putnam's. \$1.25.
Marsden, R. G. Select Pleas in the Court of Admiralty. Edited for the Selden Society. London: Bernard Quaritch.
Marsh, Richard. Mrs. Musgrave and her Husband. Appletons.
Morgan, T. J. Patriotic Citizenship. American Book Co.
Morier, James. The Adventures of Hajji Baba of Ispahan. 2 vols. London: Methuen & Co.; Chicago: Stone & Kimball.
Mott, Ed. The Old Settler, the Quaker and Little Peleg. Lovell, Coryell & Co. \$1.
Murray, A. S. Manual of Mythology. Revised ed. Philadelphia: David McKay.
O'Connor, Joseph. Poems. Putnam's. \$1.25.
O'Gorman, Prof. Thomas. A History of the Catholic Church in the United States. Christian Literature Co. \$3.
Oxley, J. M. My Strange Rescue, and Other Stories of Sport and Adventure in Canada. T. Nelson & Sons. \$1.25.
Parker, Dr. C. C. The Elements of Health. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. \$1.25.
Pemberton, Max. The Little Huguenot. Dodd, Mead & Co. 75 cents.
Reid, Stuart J. Lord John Russell. Harpers. \$1.
Reinach, Salomon. Pierres Gravées des Collections Marlborough et d'Orléans, etc. Récits et Rédécouvertes avec un Texte Nouveau. Paris: Firmin-Didot & Co.
Richardson, C. F. The Choice of Books. Lovell, Coryell & Co. 75 cents.
Russell, W. C. The Honor of the Flag. Putnam's. 50 cents.
Shaw, E. R. Legends of Fire Island Beach and the South Side. Lovell, Coryell & Co. 75 cents.
Smith, T. K. Altruria. Altruria Publishing Co. 25 cents.
Staats, Joanna. Dramaticks: A Little Story of a Sinner and a Child. Transatlantic Publishing Co. \$1.
Stephens, Mrs. Ann S. Doubly False. M. J. Ivers & Co. 25 cents.
Super, Mrs. Emma L. One Rich Man's Son. Hunt & Eaton. 90 cents.
Visitor's Guide to Salem. Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute.
Wells, H. G. Select Conversations with an Uncle. London: John Lane; New York: Merriam Co. \$1.35.
Whishaw, Fred. Boris the Bear-Hunter: A Tale of Peter the Great and his Times. T. Nelson & Sons. \$1.25.
Whittaker, W. J. The Mirror of Justice. Edited for the Selden Society. London: Bernard Quaritch.
Williams, H. G. Outlines of Psychology. Syracuse: C. W. Bardeen.

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