

Whether temper is hereditary is a question not easily answered; but when asked of couples in which both parents are good-tempered, or both parents bad-tempered, the answer is emphatically in the affirmative. 30 per cent of the children of the former are spoken of as good-tempered, and only 10 per cent as bad; while, with regard to the children of the bad-tempered, only 4 per cent are good-tempered, and 52 per cent bad. Similarly, by a method necessarily somewhat arbitrary and not easily described, Mr. Galton concludes that in the ancestry of good-tempered persons, three persons of good temper will occur to two of bad temper, and *vice versa* in the ancestry of a bad-tempered person. Apart from direct heredity, education and circumstances evidently affect temper. A large class of such influences are about as favorable to good as to bad temper, and so tend to produce a variety of tempers. Another class of influences, typically illustrated in the case of a not unusually docile woman becoming very docile as the wife of a masterful husband, tends to divide persons (and this applies particularly to the offspring) into distinct groups; while the effect of a prepotent ancestor may be working to continue one kind of temper through many members of the family. Mr. Galton finds, that, in 14 cases of 49, these domestic and social influences are too weak to overcome the secondary influences in course of heredity, either by the prepotent temper of one member or the general concurrence of temper in several. Finally, it may be noted, that, though so important and readily observed a trait, temper is not a prime consideration in marriage, men of each kind of temper about as frequently choosing a wife of one temper as of another.

This research, though necessarily not very definite, is well calculated to bring out the great variety of this important trait, and to show, amidst this diversity, its tendency to continue its kind.

IS GENIUS UNIVERSAL?—The question, when asked with a due appreciation of the kind of evidence upon which it is to be answered, is by no means an idle one. To know whether the activity for which the world reserves its highest prizes is dependent upon an unusual strength of mental capacity in all directions, or upon the acute specialization of one faculty of mind to the exclusion of any thing like equal development of other faculties, is certainly an important piece of knowledge. Carlyle had no respect for a genius that could not be any kind of genius, and his view is quite generally repeated with approval by persons with less right to an opinion. This is a mistake of all hero-worshippers. They exaggerate the abilities of their hero in all directions in which he had a somewhat more than average gift, and also exaggerate the share due to circumstances in his development. It is easy to cite quite a long list of men eminent in more than one direction; but, as Mr. Sully, whose train of thought (*Gentleman's Magazine*, July, 1887) we are now repeating, well points out, if we are careful to count only such kinds of eminence as imply markedly different modes of mental power, and demand first-rate ability in each, the number of 'double-firsts' is enormously diminished. We find that polynathy has been mistaken for universal genius; that the poet-scientist, for example, was a great poet, but only an average scientist; and that the few eminent names that shine in several departments are decidedly exceptional. "True genius very rarely shows itself in more than one well-defined region of human activity." That this is due to a more or less innate fitness for that kind of activity in which greatness is won, is shown not only by the fact that it is a marked characteristic of genius to show a decided bent that overcomes all obstacles in the direction of future greatness, but also that often tentative excursions in various directions result in failure, until the right activity is found, and success follows. This conception of genius is in harmony with the little we know of its physical substratum. "Universal genius is a biological absurdity," says Mr. Sully. Genius depends upon the abnormal development of a certain group of brain-centres. Widely versatile talent is the outcome of a splendid, generally excellent brain; and perhaps this is the clew to the tendency of genius to go over to abnormal one-sidedness, while talent keeps healthy as an "exalted common sense."

THE editor of *Petermann's Mittheilungen* is in receipt of a letter containing the news that Lupton Bey is safe in Khartum, although still a prisoner of Osman Digma.

BOOK—REVIEWS.

The Pleasures of Life. By Sir JOHN LUBBOCK. London and New York, Macmillan. 16°.

THERE are in every age certain leaders of thought, who, by their successes already won, have gained for themselves the right to speak on topics important to the general culture of the age which they represent. In an age in whose culture science occupies a place exalted far beyond what was ever allotted it before, it is natural to find in the eminent scientist the spokesman of culture. Amongst those entitled to such a distinction, Sir John Lubbock stands amongst the first. The versatility of his talents, the success with which he has utilized them in so many directions, the practical interest he has always taken in the doings of the nation to which he belongs,—all have contributed to his well-merited fame. The author of the 'Origin of Civilization' and of 'Pre-historic Times' does not think it a whit less worthy to minutely record the doings of 'ants, bees, and wasps;' and that, too, in the leisure hours of a busy parliamentary career. In educational and all scientific movements his name has always been prominent. Such a man is naturally often called upon to make short addresses of welcome or of congratulation on the many occasions on which such are customary. These addresses are here collected, and make a very pleasing volume. "Being myself naturally rather prone to suffer from low spirits," says the author, "I have at several of these gatherings taken the opportunity of dwelling on the privileges and blessings we enjoy," etc.

The changed conditions of modern life form the subject of many an essay. That these changes cause a variation in the order and importance of the pleasures of life, goes without saying. This change Sir John Lubbock fully appreciates, and the liveliness of his little book is beyond question. That much of what he says is not new, will be foreseen: such a volume must be judged by lenient standards. If what is said is well and pleasantly said, if it appeals to the good sense of cultured people by the liberality and nobility of the thought, it answers its purpose. It must certainly have been a privilege to have heard these addresses: in the reading of them many will find a 'pleasure of life.'

Under the two titles 'The Duty of Happiness' and 'The Happiness of Duty' is advocated a scientifically justifiable optimism the practical realization of which will be a universal blessing. The importance of literature in the lives of the people at large is represented in 'A Song of Books,' and in the much-disputed 'The Choice of Books.' The social virtues find their praises recorded in 'The Blessings of Friends' and 'The Pleasures of Home.' The practical problems of modern life are touched upon in the essays on the value of time, on science, and on education. The plea for science is a just one: it aims to dispel the notion that science is all drudgery, or all grossly and immediately practical; the scientist a bug-hunter, and nothing more. The culture-worth of science, the educational value of its instructions, are amongst the most precious treasures of our civilization. The office of these in widening the mental horizon, in checking a narrowing dogmatism, in keeping alive a healthy communion with nature, can hardly be exaggerated. In the education of the future, science is destined to play a still more important part than it does now. One may well join the author in the wish for a glimpse of a science-primer of the twentieth century.

Home Sanitation: A Manual for Housekeepers. By the SANITARY SCIENCE CLUB of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. Boston, Ticknor. 16°.

THE Sanitary Science Club of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae was organized in 1883, for the study of home sanitation. Two years were devoted to general study and research before any attempt was made to extend the work beyond the limits of the club. Since that time the material presented in this little book of eighty pages has gradually taken form. It consists of a series of short essays on the different subjects connected with home sanitation, each of which is followed by a series of questions formulated with reference to the topics discussed, and so framed that an affirmative answer implies a satisfactory arrangement of that part of the home, while, if the answer is negative, a remedy for the defect is suggested. These questions have been practically tested by the