

Mr. Gurney contributes two articles. In the first he describes some curious experiments in hypnotism, in which the subject is given an hypnotic suggestion to write such and such a word, and when awakened is utterly unable to recall the word, not even by an offer of money; but when seated at the planchette he unconsciously, or, as Mr. Gurney prefers, automatically, writes the word without knowing what he has written. The variations on this experiment are more curious than valuable; but the cardinal idea is a happy one, and promises to shed new light on the rôle of memory in hypnotic states. Many of the author's deductions from and explanations of his phenomena will not be indorsed by authorities in hypnotism. In his second article Mr. Gurney argues at great length for the admission of two kinds of suggestion in hypnotism, — the first the recognized physical suggestion; and the second a purely psychical suggestion, acting without contact and at a distance. He traces the relations and analogies of the one to the other, and marks off the boundary-lines of the two. All of this is decidedly premature, but it serves a useful purpose in singling out the very point upon which further study should and will be directed. Can the increased sensibility, the astounding subtlety, and the marvellous shrewdness of hysterical hypnotics account for the observed phenomena, taking into account the difficulties of a complete observation and our ignorance of the possibilities of deception, or must we introduce an agency new to the domain of science? Quite relevant in this connection is the footnote of Mr. Gurney's, pointing out that hypnotic subjects easily establish a fashion, and that here is the clew to the differences between the schools of Paris and of Nancy; and it may be added, that an omission of a factor such as this would make a telepathic fact of what, under this view, is only a shrewd and largely unconscious acting-out of a suggestion.

Among the critical notices, Mr. F. W. H. Myers writes a very matter-of-fact account of the work of the Seybert Commission, and describes some observations of Professor Foutan on seeing with the fingers, and hearing with the fingers, the chief feature of which is their incredibility. Mr. Myers overestimates their value, and they must be corroborated before they can rank as facts at all.

What in many ways is the most important and interesting contribution in the number is to be found on the last two pages. Here we are told that the Creery girls, from whom experimental evidence of telepathy had been gained, were detected in the use of a code of signals. They had both a visual and an ordinary code; and, though these codes may not have been used on all occasions, it throws discredit on all results obtained through their agency. If scientific observers can thus be deceived by young girls, — inexperienced, and apparently perfectly sincere girls, — ought not this to impress upon every investigator the profound importance of acquainting himself with the possibilities of deception, and perhaps to conduct his observations on the principle of the detective who held every one to be criminally inclined until proven to be honest?

*Looking Backward.* By EDWARD BELLAMY. Boston, Ticknor. 16°. 50 cents.

THE preface to this work is dated in the year 2000, and its object is to show the state of society which in the author's opinion is destined to prevail at that time. The author, being a novelist, has written the work in the form of a story, the principal actor in which, Mr. West, tells his own tale. He goes into a trance in the year 1887, and awakens in the year 2000, when he finds himself in a society so different from that he had been accustomed to, that it took him some time to get acquainted with it. This society is based on State socialism in the most extreme form. All industry is controlled by the national authorities at Washington, the individual States as well as all private corporations and capitalists being done away with. The authorities are almost exclusively occupied with managing the national industry, but little legislation being needed; for the people are all so very good, that they have no disposition to wrong each other, the few cases of crime that occur being regarded as examples of 'atavism.'

This amazing moral improvement, our readers will understand, is entirely due to the equal distribution of property. Every individual has an equal share with every other in the national industry, so that there is no check on the increase of population. On the other hand, every one is required to work according to his abilities; yet

the men of the new era are represented as loving each other so very much that they are perfectly satisfied with this arrangement. Moreover, the wealth of the world is so enormously increased, that everybody lives as luxuriously as the richest folks do now. In short, the book depicts the usual socialistic Utopia, with many refinements of detail.

The absurdity of the whole thing is evident from various considerations. Besides the difficulty of managing such a colossal industrial system in the way supposed, — a difficulty which the author of the book fails entirely to appreciate, — the social order here exhibited assumes such an increase of wealth as could not possibly take place without mechanical or other inventions such as have not yet been even dreamed of, and which Mr. Bellamy does not even hint at. For, not only are all men to be rich under the coming régime, but they are not to work more than five or six hours a day, and are to cease work entirely at the age of forty-five. The idea advanced by the author, that such a vast increase in the production of wealth will result from a mere change in the mode of distribution, is preposterous.

Again: Mr. Bellamy's scheme assumes the possibility of a moral improvement such as cannot be made in less than some thousands of years, if indeed it ever can be. The theory that all wickedness and crime are due to the unequal distribution of wealth is contradicted by every man's personal consciousness and of all that we know of human nature. It should be added, that Mr. Bellamy's ideal of human happiness is any thing but a high one, for it consists mainly in 'easy and agreeable relaxation;' and he expressly says that 'bread and games' are the prime necessities of life. In short, the book describes a state of society and of human life that is not only impossible, but in many respects as undesirable as it is impossible.

*Memory and its Doctors.* By Dr. E. PICK. London, Trübner. 12°.

*Memory: What it is, and How to improve it.* By DAVID KAY. London, Kegan Paul, Trench, & Co. 8°.

*"Loisette" exposed, together with Loisette's Complete System of Physiological Memory.* By G. S. FELLOWS. New York, The Author. 8°. 25 cents.

ALTHOUGH the search for the philosopher's stone has been abandoned, and men have come to agree that there is no royal road to knowledge, still one can often detect in many a mind a lurking fondness for the belief that there may possibly be some undiscovered short cut to mental attainment which a modern Raymond Lully or Ponce de Leon may reveal in a few lessons under the inspiration of a proper fee. It seems not a rash assumption to make, that, of the many thousands who within a few years have paid tribute to a certain 'American memory professor,' not a few came with the secret hope of emerging from the five lessons with their entire mental furniture put into perfect order and vastly improved. While these people lend a willing ear to the physiologist when he explains to them how mental acquisition is related to organic growth; how everywhere normal growth is a gradual, assimilative, and digestive process, not to be hurried by overdosing and cram; yet they have not the necessary faith to apply this knowledge to the particular case in which they are interested. This, together with a successful advertising machinery and production of testimonials, must largely account for the phenomenal success that has attended this professor of memory.

Remarkable memories have from ancient times attracted a good deal of attention. Especial attention seems to have been given to the subject of artificial memory throughout the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Dr. Pick gives a convenient sketch of the history of the topic. Petrus de Ravenna is said to have played a game of chess, and to have dictated two letters on stated topics at the same time that dice were thrown and the throws recorded. When the game was over, he recited all the moves of the game of chess, all the words of the two letters backwards, and each throw of the dice in order. System after system of mnemonics was proposed, each promising more than its predecessor, and all painfully artificial. The association of dates and items to be remembered visually with the compartments of an imaginary house, or orally with the names of the letters, with numbers and harsh com-