

BOOK-REVIEWS.

De la Suggestion et du Somnambulisme dans leurs Rapports avec la Jurisprudence et la Médecine Légale. Par JULES LIEGOIS. Paris. 8°.

PROFESSOR LIEGOIS has in this volume presented a work destined to take an authoritative place in the modern study of hypnotism. He approaches the subject from an aspect not yet worthily represented. He is a professor in the law faculty at Nancy, and, together with Bernheim, Beaunis, and Liebault, has contributed to the position and the fame of the school of Nancy. In the present volume he brings together the result of some five years' study and observation. Though interested primarily in the legal aspects of hypnotism, and entitling the volume according to this interest, the author takes a very wide view of the subject; so that, in addition to its special purpose, the volume forms a serviceable manual of the views of the Nancy school of hypnotism.

We have first an historical survey of the phenomena beginning with Mesmer, in which special attention is paid to those who first presented the importance of suggestion as an explanation of the phenomena, and thus in some sense were predecessors of the school of Nancy. Following upon this is a chapter describing the methods of hypnotization and the various kinds and degrees of the effects produced. We come then to the real core of the subject, suggestion and its many variations. The author forcibly defends, and illustrates with an abundance of examples and *pièces justificatives*, the point of view of the school of Nancy, holding that suggestion, conscious or unconscious, is the clew to the explanation of all the phenomena, and assigning to the physical manipulations, etc., the rôle of re-enforcements of suggestion. The main body of the work is devoted to the description of all those phenomena of hypnotism likely to be concerned in criminal abuses, for which this state of automatism and unconsciousness offers facilities; and, as almost the entire range of phenomena can be so abused, the result is a rather large work.

The first class of crimes noticed are those against the person hypnotized. To make this possible, it is necessary that the subject shall be entirely insensible, and again, that, upon awakening, the subject retain no memory of what has been done. The former is conclusively shown by the many tests of pricking with pins; applying electrical shocks, irritating substances, etc., employed to show the genuineness of the phenomena; and, in addition, by the many cases in which this insensibility is utilized for performing surgical operations. A very complete account of these is given, showing how easily and how variedly this power may be abused, and no clew remain of the perpetrator of the crime. The forgetting of what has happened in hypnosis is the normal case in all but the lightest stages, and, especially if re-enforced by a direct suggestion that no trace shall remain in the memory, becomes a most serious factor in the legal aspects of hypnotism. The normal life of the individual is broken into by these hypnotic states, until at length we have almost a dual personality; the normal self knowing nothing of the hypnotic *ego*, and the latter forming successive though not continuous experiences of its own.

A second important class of crimes is inherent in the susceptibility of the subject. The automatism of the hypnotic state, placing the subject so largely at the mercy of the operator, opens out possibilities of abuse limited only by the variety of suggestions. The subject's signature may be obtained to documents of great money value; he may be induced to declare himself the perpetrator of a crime really committed by another; he may be made to accuse an innocent third party of a crime, and perhaps declare himself a witness of the fact; he may be made to commit a theft, a forgery, while hypnotized; and so on. These complications are made the more probable and the more perplexing by the existence of post-hypnotic and of retro-active hallucinations. It has been shown that almost any suggestion acted out by the subject while hypnotized may also be performed while in his normal waking condition, in obedience to a suggestion given a shorter or longer time previously in the hypnosis. Here, then, would be a person committing a crime with a full consciousness

of his surroundings, perhaps accepting the responsibility of his actions, and yet really the tool of another, irresistibly guided by a hidden hand. To show that these cases are more than fictitious, Professor Liegois devised several experiments in which subjects were made to shoot a designated individual with a paper pistol, offer him a drink of water which was believed by the subject to be poison, and the like. The retro-active hallucinations take place when the subject accepts the suggestion that a certain event has formed a part of his experience; that he has done or seen a certain thing, while in fact, though the event may be a real one, he has had no part in it. The easily impressed subject absorbs the pseudo-event into his mental possessions, may perhaps add corroborating details of his own, fixing the time, place, and circumstances. Every imaginable variety of falsification of testimony is thus made possible. This susceptibility has been observed, too, in the ordinary waking state without any hypnotization whatever, though usually only with persons subject to hypnotization. The state would then be similar to that slightly morbid condition in which fact and fiction are intermingled and an imaginative person believes his own fabrications, except that the latter are impressed upon him from without. Children are particularly liable to this weakness. The case of the boy Moritz, in the famous Tisza-Eslar affair, accusing his own father of a heinous crime, is doubtless to be accounted for in this way; and Professor Liegois cites several cases in which, in less enlightened ages, persons have been tortured and executed on the strength of evidence very probably the result of suggestion upon a susceptible temperament.

Having thus outlined the field of criminal suggestion, the author reviews a few cases of actual legal proceedings in which he feels confident that hypnotism has played a part. In some trials an abnormal condition was suspected, in others not. They are mostly, however, of no recent date, and will not command the interest attendant upon cases now occurring, in which the possibilities of hypnotism are fully understood. It is to the discussion of the methods of placing the responsibility in cases that may arise, that Professor Liegois devotes the final chapters of his volume. In the cases where the subject is the victim of a crime, it will usually be known whether he or she has been accustomed to be hypnotized, and by whom; in other words, the case would present the same difficulties as the detection of guilt in an assault in which the victim is rendered helpless by physical means. In cases in which the hypnotized subject commits a crime, the hypnotizer alone is responsible; and the proof of acting while in an irresponsible condition will clear the alleged criminal, as in a plea of insanity. If the crime is committed post-hypnotically, the proof would be more difficult, though in both cases it would have to be shown that the defendant can be hypnotized to a degree of forgetting all that happens in the hypnotic state. The right of a court to hypnotize a person in order to ascertain what has occurred in a former hypnosis (but which remains totally forgotten in the normal state) the author seems to regard as a dangerous precedent. The main point, however, is to discover the author of a suggestion, when the latter has taken the precaution to suggest to his subject complete amnesia of himself, and a full acceptance of the deed as his or her own. This difficulty Professor Liegois thinks he has solved by a series of ingenious tests. It is quite true, that, under the conditions described, the subject will be unable to name the author of a suggestion; but if, for example, she be told that as soon as the author of the suggestion enters the room she will go to sleep or do any designated act, she will do as desired, and thus reveal the real criminal. No matter how carefully the hypnotizer may have trained his subject, the possibilities of indirectly inducing the subject to reveal the hypnotizer are so many and various that some means of detection must be available. The subject, then, while irresponsive to a direct question or appeal, will respond to a suggestion indirectly giving the desired information, provided this does not conflict with a contrary suggestion previously imposed; and the safeguard of society lies in the endless possibilities of these indirect suggestions.

Such, then, are the main points in the legal aspects of hypnotism. It will readily be understood that much of their interest

attaches to the details which the original alone can supply. To guide the reader most directly to the points of greatest interest, the author prints an exhaustive summary at the opening of each chapter. In all respects the work shows most careful preparation, and deserves the place it will doubtless find upon the shelves of all following the interesting developments of the science of hypnotism.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

NUMBERS 20 and 21 of the *Modern Science Essayist* (Boston, J. H. West) contain respectively "Primitive Man," by Z. Sidney Sampson, and "The Growth of the Marriage Relation," by C. Staniland Wake.

—The Worthington Company have recently published Swinburne's "Study of Ben Jonson."

—Rand, McNally, & Co. announce for next week an unabridged edition of the journal of Marie Bashkirtseff.

—The Welch, Fracker Company have nearly ready "In Western Levant," also a new edition of "On the Wing Through Europe," two volumes of travel sketches by Francis C. Sessions, president of the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society.

—Henry Holt & Co. will publish shortly the third and concluding volume of Fyffe's "History of Modern Europe." The new volume treats of the years 1848-78, and covers the period of European politics which led up to the Franco-Prussian war.

—D. Lothrop Company have just published "The Catholic Man," a study of the character that is developed by the many phases of our modern life, by Mrs. Lawrence Turnbull; also "Stories of New France," episodes of Canadian history, written by Miss A. M. Machar and Thomas G. Marquis.

—G. P. Putnam's Sons have ready in the Questions of the Day Series "Railway Secrecy and Trusts," by John M. Bonham; and a new edition in paper covers of Edward Bellamy's "Six to One," first published in 1878.

—The result of Prang's national flower campaign is 70 per cent of all votes for golden-rod; 16 per cent of all votes for May-flower; 14 per cent scattering for daisy, mountain laurel, dandelion, sunflower, and others.

—Mr. Walter J. Clutterbuck, one of the authors of "Three in Norway," has written an account of a voyage in the waters between Iceland, Greenland, and Spitzbergen, a region hitherto neglected. "The Skipper in Arctic Seas" will be published here at once by Longmans, Green, & Co.

—D. Appleton & Co. publish this week a little book by Dr. F. H. Rankin, on "Hygiene for Childhood," giving suggestions for the care of children after the period of infancy to the completion of puberty; and a volume entitled "Evolution of Man and Christianity," by the Rev. Howard McQueary.

—The J. B. Lippincott Company have published "The Conquest of Mexico," in the new library edition of Prescott's works; a revised edition of Dr. Agnew's work on "The Principles and Practice of Surgery;" an elementary work on plane and spherical trigonometry, by Professor E. S. Crawley of the University of Pennsylvania; and a guide to Philadelphia and its surroundings.

—Macmillan & Co. have nearly ready Sir Charles Dilke's "Problems of Greater Britain," which English critics rank in importance with Bryce's "American Commonwealth." It is one of the most exhaustive accounts yet attempted of the British Empire, and written by a statesman of the first rank. It gives but passing attention to the United States, and chiefly for purposes of comparison with Canada; but about one-half of the first volume deals with North America, and the whole subject has interest for every American.

—It is announced by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons that they have acquired from Mr. Henry M. Stanley all the American rights for his personal narrative of the expedition for the relief of Emin Pacha. Prior to the appearance of the complete work, *Scribner's Magazine* will publish an article upon his last journey by Mr. Stanley. Readers may have noticed that Mr. Herbert

Ward, who was one of Stanley's officers, makes no mention of the expedition in the article recounting his experiences upon the Kongo, which appears in *Scribner's* for February, the fact being that Mr. Stanley has reserved the sole right to describe this most remarkable of all his African undertakings.

—Ginn & Co. announce to be published in April "The Best Elizabethan Plays," edited with an introduction by William R. Thayer. The selection comprises "The Jew of Malta," by Marlowe; "The Alchemist," by Ben Jonson; "Philaster," by Beaumont and Fletcher; "The Two Noble Kinsmen," by Fletcher and Shakspeare; and "The Duchess of Malfy," by Webster. It thus furnishes not only the best specimen of the dramatic works of each of the five Elizabethan poets who rank next to Shakspeare, but also a general view of the development of the English drama from its rise in Marlowe to its last strong expression in Webster. This volume appeals to the general reader who wishes to get, in small compass, the best products of the Elizabethan drama (exclusive of Shakspeare), and also to the students in academies or colleges who are studying this most important period of English literature. It is a work equally well adapted to the library and to the classroom.

—Funk & Wagnalls of New York announce the following books now in preparation and soon to be ready: "Wendell Phillips, the Agitator," by Carlos Martyn, to which we have referred already; "The Economics of Prohibition," by Rev. J. C. Fernald, which is an attempt to apply the principles of political economy to the subject of the liquor traffic, showing the advantage that national prohibition would secure; and "A Cyclopaedia of Temperance and Prohibition," which is to be a large work, treating every relevant topic, from the most elementary to the most advanced phase of the liquor question. It will give many brief sketches of eminent temperance workers; the latest action of the various religious denominations; the liquor status of all countries of the world; the different temperance organizations; the political parties; facts and figures relating to all kinds of intoxicants, all branches of the liquor traffic, and all kinds of attempted remedies.

—The Appalachian Mountain Club of Boston has happily utilized an opportunity afforded it by the completion of the topographical survey of Massachusetts by the United States Geological Survey in compiling a contoured map of the region about Boston from parts or the whole of half a dozen sheets of the survey. The map is in the shape of a rectangle, about thirty by twenty miles, with Boston at the right centre, extending west beyond Concord, and including the Blue Hills on the south, and Marblehead on the north, — a land area of about five hundred square miles. The presence of the harbor, with its varied islands and broken outline, renders the effect of the map a specially pleasing one. For the study of the topography and geology of the district, as well as for walks, rides, and drives, and for all the special purposes of the club, the map is invaluable. The scale is a mile to an inch, and the details of reproduction precisely those of the survey. The idea may well be copied by our other large cities; and the club is certainly to be congratulated upon its promptitude, since some of the sheets included in the map have not yet been issued by the survey.

—A praiseworthy movement is about to be set on foot by *The Ladies' Home Journal* of Philadelphia. It proposes to give to any young girl of sixteen years or over, who will send to it between now and Jan. 1, 1891, the largest number of yearly subscribers to the journal, a complete education at Vassar College, or any other American college she may select. The education offered includes every branch of study, with every expense paid, the journal agreeing to educate the girl irrespective of the time required or the expense involved. To this is also pinned a second offer, which guarantees to any girl of sixteen or over, who will secure a thousand yearly subscribers before Jan. 1, a full term of one year at Vassar or any other preferred college, with all expenses paid, thus making it possible for any number of young girls to receive free educations at the best colleges.