

are said to lack originality, but this is perfectly natural under the conditions in which they have been forced to live. They are almost hopelessly indolent, but no one, not even a white man, could work there as he would in a temperate region and live. He has many good qualities, however, to counterbalance these defects in his character. His open-handed and cheerful hospitality is much in his favor. He is cleanly, both with regard to his person and his surroundings. His houses and family are well regulated. He is patient and forbearing, but when he does get angry becomes a perfect maniac. He is a kind father and dutiful son. He is genial and sociable among his fellows, and is naturally fearless.

With all these good qualities they seem, however, to be absolutely unfit for self-government, and probably their lack of education is the main difficulty in the way of their realizing this important object. They appear to be 'big children who must be treated like little ones,' but as they are naturally law-abiding and peace-loving there is some hope of them.

The natural resources and the conditions governing their development are dealt with in the appendix.

WILLIAM LIBBEY.

GENERAL.

AFTER four years a new edition of M. Ch. Féré's *La famille neuropathique* (Alcan) has been called for, and the author has used the occasion not only to revise the work throughout, but also to add much new material. A chapter is now devoted to the heredity of tumors; the discussion of monstrosities and their experimental production is enlarged as the result of new contributions, and the abundant recent literature on physical and mental degeneration is incorporated. The heredity of bodily diseases and malformations is a subject sufficiently difficult, while in the case of mental degeneration there is at present almost complete chaos. When M. Féré discusses the hereditary transmission of vice, crime and even functional disturbances of the nervous system it is impossible to be sure that what he regards as hereditary is not entirely due to environment. When he says we must spread precise ideas of the causes

of degeneration, and then proceeds to give the five causes, at least half of them are extremely doubtful. It is not even certain that degeneration does obtain in modern society. M. Féré's review, is, however, on the whole objective, and is made especially valuable by the ample references to the literature. It appears from the index of names that more than 1200 separate authors are quoted, and full bibliographical details are supplied.

PROFESSOR KARL GROOS'S work on 'The Play of Animals' has been translated into excellent English by Miss Elizabeth L. Baldwin and published by the Appletons. As the editor, Professor J. Mark Baldwin, says in his preface, the volume is a contribution to three departments of enquiry—philosophical biology, comparative psychology and the genesis of art. Being thus of interest to many students, the English version will prove most useful. It is not necessary to give an account of the contents of the book, as the German edition was the occasion of a thorough critical review by Professor Baldwin (Vol. V., pp. 347-52). Indeed, there was first adequately signalized the importance of Professor Groos's work. The promised companion volume on the play of children is awaited with much interest.

WE are glad to call attention to the second edition of Dr. Verworn's *General Physiology*, the original edition of which has already been reviewed in these columns (Vol. II., pp. 557-8). The second edition shows many improvements upon the first, and many of the subjects which were somewhat scantily dealt with in the earlier edition are now treated more fully; but the general plan and execution of the work remains closely similar to that of the original edition, so that we hold it to be unnecessary to do more than again commend the work to the attention of American biologists, and to express the hope that general physiology, in the sense of the science of the functions of the cell, may receive in this country a much greater attention than has hitherto been the case. For this reason the translation of the work by Professor F. S. Lee, of Columbia University, announced for early publication by The Macmillan Co., will be particularly welcome.