

For hollier, happier far is the meed
That crowneth the Lords of Labor.
—James McFarlan.

BOOKS

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIME.

On the Witness Stand. Essays on Psychology and Crime. By Hugo Munsterberg, Professor of Psychology, Harvard University. Published by The McClure Company. Price, \$1.50 net.

This book is as wholesome as it is interesting; and it is interesting in extraordinarily high degree. Its keynote is that "criminals are not born, but made—not even self-made, but fellow-made." To reform them, the best method is not an appeal to motives of fear, but a regular and strong awakening of counter ideas. "Society must work negatively to remove those influences which work in the opposite direction; the atmosphere of criminality, the vulgarity and brutality, the meanness and frivolity of the surroundings must be removed from the mind in its development." As "a well-behaved mind grows only in a well-treated body, true far-seeing hygiene can prevent more crime than any law." But it must deal with more than sanitary conditions of the conventional kind. Body and mind must be built up with powers of resistance to criminal impulses; and this makes it necessary "that all social factors co-operate in harmony and that no science which may contribute to this tremendous problem hold back."

Those are Prof. Munsterberg's conclusions on the subject of preventing crime, which he holds to be "more important than treatment of crime." The conclusions are not lightly come to. Neither are they deduced from preconceived principles, although they harmonize with the best *a priori* thought. They are inductions from systematic observation, as minute and laborious as the narrowest devotee of "the scientific method" could demand. In addition to his own extensive experiments the author draws from the data of some fifty psychological laboratories in the United States alone, to say nothing of those in Europe, where nearly every university shelters one. His plea is for practical recognition of this youngest of the sciences by the courts; and while his book makes the witness in court its center of observation, and the criminal at the bar its objective, the jurymen's susceptibility to hypnotic influence does not wholly escape attention.

Many of Prof. Munsterberg's statements of fact are startling, but a little reflection brings them within the range of common acknowledgment. One of these is his assertion that no two persons have the same kind of memory any more than they have exactly the same face.

It is on the subject of confessions, however, that

the book appeals with special force. The author condemns unsparingly the police "sweat-box" method of extorting confessions from persons in custody upon accusation of crime. Not only does he regard this method as barbaric, but as "ineffective in bringing out the real truth." Saying that "innocent men have been accused by the tortured ones," he adds that "crimes which were never committed have been confessed" and "infamous lies have been invented to satisfy the demands of the torturers;" and he proceeds to explain that a prisoner under pain and fear "may make any admission which will relieve his suffering, and, still more misleading, his mind may lose the power to discriminate between illusion and real memory." In illustration of this point, the author cites the case of young Ivins, on which *The Public* has heretofore commented (vol. ix, pp. 292, 914), who was hypnotized by the Chicago police into making repeated confessions of a murder he probably did not commit, each time enriching the confession with further details that "seemed absurd and contradictory and exactly like the involuntary elaboration of a suggestion put into the man's mind."

Although Prof. Munsterberg condemns the brutal method of the police in extorting confessions, he does not condemn confessions nor efforts to evoke them. He puts the confession in the highest category of evidence in criminal procedure, "provided that it is reliable and well proved," and he indicates psychological methods of probing a prisoner's mind and memory, in the interest of justice, as well for the innocent as the guilty, without extortion or other encroachments upon any of his rights of self-defense. It consists in the application of psychological tests to which the innocent and the guilty alike—though from different motives—will readily assent.

Not the least interesting and instructive part of this book is the chapter on "Hypnotism and Crime," in which the limitations of hypnotism are discussed. A perusal of that chapter goes far to remove the chaotic notions of hypnotism, as a factor in crime and a possible adjunct to legal procedure, which journalistic imaginations have fostered. Prof. Munsterberg does not believe that an innocent man can be induced under hypnotic influences to commit crime. Although he has seen many experiments in which hypnotized persons have gone through criminal motions, such as striking with a paper dagger or shooting with an empty revolver, he has "never become convinced that there did not remain a background idea of artificiality in the mind of the hypnotized, and that this idea overcame the resistance which would be prohibitive in actual life." But he does believe that "hypnotization may prevent crime," and he gives instances in proof. As to the use of hypnotism for eliciting confessions from prisoners or influencing the testimony of witnesses under examination, he regards it as "self-evident, from moral

and legal reasons, that no civilized court ought to listen to such extorted evidence." The decisive point with him is that inasmuch as in the hypnotic state "all is suppressed which counteracts the suggestions of the hypnotizer," the person on the witness stand would cease to be really himself and "would therefore not remain legally the witness who took the oath before hypnotization."

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WITH THE PRINTER.

The Preparation of Manuscripts for the Printer. By Frank H. Vizetelly, associate editor of the Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary. Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York & London. Price 75 cents, net.

A neat little book, giving directions as to the proper manner of preparing "copy" and correcting proofs, with suggestions on submitting manuscripts for publication. Perhaps the most valuable of the seventeen brief chapters are those on punctuation, indexing and proof-reading. The value of correct punctuation as an aid to style as well as for the avoidance of obscurity, is properly insisted upon.

ALICE THACHER POST.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—Between Two Rebellions. By Asenath Carver Coolidge. Published by Asenath Carver Coolidge, Watertown, N. Y. 1909.

—In the Valley of the Shadows. By Thomas Lee Woolwine. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. 1909. Price, \$1.00.

—The Passing of the Tariff. By Raymond L. Bridgman. Published by Sherman, French & Co., Boston. 1909. Price, \$1.20 net.

—The Portland Cement Industry from a Financial Standpoint. By Edwin C. Eckel. Published by Moody's Magazine, New York, 1908. Price \$2.00, net.

—"A Little Sister of the Poor." By Josephine Conger Kaneko. Published by the Progressive Woman Publishing Co., Girard, Kansas. 1909. Price, 25 cents.

PAMPHLETS

Omar and the Rabbi.

Professor Frederick LeRoy Sargent has cleverly arranged in dramatic form, a combination of Fitzgerald's translation of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, and Robert Browning's Rabbi Ben Ezra. The world-old contest between flesh and spirit is here in master-hands. (Harvard Co-operative Society, Cambridge, Mass. Price, 25 cts.)

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"Guilty or not guilty?" "Not guilty." "Den what do you want here? Go about your pusiness."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

PERIODICALS

Charities and Commons for January 30 is a Child Labor issue. A well-written report of the fifth annual conference of the National Child Labor Committee, held in Chicago Jan. 21-23, remarks that the million child drudges on farms and the children's "street trades" received special attention. Moreover, a larger part of the discussion than ever before was devoted to the importance of not only saving children from premature toil but also of giving them better city conditions, wider play opportunity, and more efficient schools. The movement toward the creation of a Children's Bureau in the Federal Department of the Interior is mentioned as gaining headway. While the extreme need of immediate and effectual opposition to Child Labor is shown by twenty-seven photographs taken by Mr. Lewis H. Hine in numerous factories of those two States which notoriously neglect their young citizens, North and South Carolina.

A. L.

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"The Career of Bernard Shaw," by Professor Henderson, in the January Arena (Trenton and Boston), agreeably introduces Mr. Shaw outside of his writings, yet not without their flavor. It is gratifying to know that Mr. Shaw dates his interest in socialistic tendencies from a speech delivered by Henry George at Memorial Hall, Farringdon street, London, in 1883. In the same issue, B. O. Flower

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THE

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BY

John Z. White

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