

the following psychological characteristics, either (1) inability to refrain from a repetition of crime, although conscious of the superior power of the law; or (2), a lack of the sentiment of wrong, although they have a clear perception of it. He endeavors to prove that the brains of criminals are not only individually defective in gyrus development, but present marked deviations from the normal brain-types of their respective races. He holds that crime differs from monomania in being the result of faulty psychical organization as a unit, the particular form of expression being determined by social circumstances. *Crime* is therefore a *psychological* act of the criminal; and if crime is to be successfully repressed or prevented, those who make and administer the laws must patiently and carefully study the psychological constitution and peculiarities of the criminal.

If Professor Benedikt's views are in the main correct, then the present system of penal legislation is radically wrong. Effects only are being treated, while causes are ignored. The law is a failure; the spread of crime is not prevented; the criminal is not reformed, but in many cases is still further degraded and brutalized by punishment, and unfitted ever again to take his place in society as a useful and law-abiding citizen.

Professor Benedikt bases his conclusions upon the study of the brains of twenty-two criminals who had been convicted of theft, highway robbery, counterfeiting and murder. The observations have been carefully made, and although insufficient to justify the sweeping conclusions of the author, are valuable as a guide and stimulus to future investigation.

The translation has been well done; the print is clear and distinct, but the woodcuts which replace the photographs of the original work are somewhat blurred and rough. As a whole the work possesses considerable merit.

The Prescriber's Memoranda. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1881. Montreal: J. M. O'Loughlin.

To the busy general practitioner, this handy little vest pocket manual will prove invaluable. It has been brought well up to date; the prescriptions have been judiciously selected from the leading European and American writers, and on the whole fairly represent the most modern treatment of the commonest forms of disease. Besides prescriptions, it contains many useful formulæ of hos-

pital mixtures solutions and pills, and practical hints as to the general management of disease. For facility of reference, the sections are arranged alphabetically. To the country practitioner especially, we heartily recommend this little work.

The Popular Science Monthly. D. Appleton & Co., October, 1881.

The October number of this deservedly popular monthly contains much valuable matter. Particularly interesting to the medical reader, is the thoughtful and eloquent address of Sir James Paget on "The Cultivation of Medical Science," at the opening of the recent International Medical Congress. The address of the Vice-President, Professor Huxley, on "The Connection of the Biological Sciences with Medicine," is a masterly plea for improved biological training in our Medical Schools.

In marked contrast to these Scientific and scholarly productions is the somewhat flippant and sensational article of Dr. Felix Oswald on "Remedial Education." Dr. Oswald professes a thorough disbelief in the efficacy of drugs, and maintains that dieting and out-door exercise suffice to cure all forms of disease except scabies and venereal troubles. He considerably admits that antidotes and anodynes are useful, but he thinks that in time even they will be replaced by *mechanical* measures. He rides his hygienic hobby so far as to predict that, with the few exceptions mentioned, before the middle of the twentieth century, the internal use of drugs will be discarded by all intelligent physicians. Dr. Oswald's articles are pungent and vivacious, and in many respects interesting and instructive; but his conclusions are too sweeping and dogmatical, and had better be taken *cum grano*. Writers of Dr. Oswald's stamp mistake a general spirit of scepticism for scientific acumen; believing in nothing themselves, they do much to retard the advance of true science, by falsely pandering to the sceptical and infidel spirit of the age.

Lindsay & Blakiston's Visiting List for 1882.
Philadelphia: LINDSAY & BLAKISTON.

We have received a copy of this list, the first published on this continent. It maintains its position as the best Visiting List published. At least, we think so, and we have used it for many years. We strongly recommend it to our readers.