

course of only two or three generations in Jews whose parentage was known when there had been no mixed marriages.

As might have been expected, the author, holding the view stated, finds few, if any, characters which he considers could be described as Jewish. The chief pathological characteristics are held to be a somewhat undue liability to suffer from diabetes and insanity. This Mr. Fishberg puts down to a general nervous instability, and he is, no doubt, quite correct in assuming that the hardships and persecutions to which the bulk of the people have been exposed for centuries, have produced an hereditary tendency in this direction. It is also noted that, these diseases being more common in urban populations and among those engaged in exciting or hazardous business pursuits, Jews, who belong largely to these categories might be expected to show a larger proportional morbidity, and that it is not necessary to assume any racial tendency. The comparative immunity from tuberculosis which has been remarked in English Jews is shown to obtain in every country for which statistics are obtainable. This the author ascribes to a process of natural selection by which the Jewish race, accustomed for centuries to live in crowded and insanitary quarters of large cities, has acquired a special capacity for resisting the adverse conditions resulting from such a life. It is, however, probable that the freedom from a tendency to alcoholic excess plays a considerable part in giving an increased power of resistance, and it is noteworthy that consumption has of late become more frequent among Jews in New York, as well as in London, while many observers are of opinion that they are more prone than formerly to adopt the habits of their neighbors in respect to alcoholic indulgence.

As regards cancer, Mr. Fishberg seems to incline to the opinion that there is neither immunity from, nor excessive tendency to, this disease. He states, however, that several gynaecologists in New York have given him information as to the rarity of cancer among Jewesses. This is certainly not the case in London, where, allowing for the difference of age distribution, cancer appears to occur as often in Jewesses as in women in other sections of the population. As to other diseases, the

author finds no difference in the morbidity or mortality among Jews from that obtaining generally in the locality where they reside. Their special tendency to suffer from diseases of the gastro-intestinal system is considered to be confined to functional disorders. This again somewhat differs from the conclusion to which the English recent statistics would seem to point. In addition to the subjects referred to, there are interesting chapters on Jewish criminality, and on their social and economic conditions. Altogether the book is a careful and almost exhaustive account of Jewish characteristics; the bibliography and index at the end are remarkably full and complete. — *The Jews: A Study of Race and Environment*. By Maurice Fishberg. London, New York, and Melbourne: Walter Scott Publishing Company. 1911. (Cr. 8vo. pp. 597. \$1.75.)

#### The Dangers of Dust.

An article on street sanitation in a recent number of the *New York Medical Record* says that a much needed campaign of education must be carried on to train the people to fear the dangers of filthy streets and to enlist their interest in keeping them clean; that it ought to be possible to stop the shaking of dust-cloths and rugs from the windows and the sweeping of dirt into the street. To this should be added the custom, offensive to the eye at least, of throwing paper into the street, and it should be the duty of the police to demand an explanation from the occupants of the houses in case newspapers or rubbish are found on the street or sidewalks.

The writer holds that the broom and shovel method of dust removal is unsatisfactory, resulting in stirring up the dust rather than in taking it away. Two efficient methods for taking away the dust are given. The first of these is by flushing the streets, carrying the dirt to gutters and sewers, and the second by means of automobile suction cleaners, a method which is available on all smoothly paved streets for the greater part of the year.

#### A Proposed Measles Research.

A forthcoming research of public health importance is announced by the *British Medical Journal*, which states that Mr. Howard McFadden, a well known English