Voltaire's *Candide*, "c'est le seul moyen de rendre la vie supportable;" and to all demonstrations either of the worth or of the worthlessness of life let us reply with Martin in the same story—"Cela est bien dit, mais il faut cultiver notre jardin."

The general purport of the chapter on Causality will appear from the conclusion which is reached, that "the conviction of the universal and unchangeable reign of law in everything that happens, psychical not less than physical, is the most precious achievement of clear thought, won by experience, established by experience. Causality is the iron yoke at which mankind drags heavily, but at the same time the iron testimony that it reckons safely when it reckons with experience."

In the last chapter the author sets himself to combat the low and unworthy ideas of woman and of love which have been promulgated by Schopenhauer and Hartmann, and rises to a certain pitch of enthusiasm as he descants on the high and noble nature of true and pure love. Against those authorities he quotes John Stuart Mill, whom he believes to have described a far nobler ideal of what woman should and may be. Love is a theme which admits of any amount of rapturous writing, and we shall not attempt to make a critical estimate of our author's opinions, but we can imagine a cynical disciple of Schopenhauer saying at the end of a glowing discourse upon the glories of love—"That is very well, friend, but what if you subtract the fundamental organic polarities?" And if we are to look forward to a time when the world-cooling process has gone so far that only a few degraded remnants of mankind, buried in snow huts near the equator, are dragging on a miserable existence, on the eve of human extinction, and all the high feelings and great achievements of the human race are as if they had never been, what room is there for enthusiasm? "Il faut cultiver notre jardin."

Hints on Insanity and Signing Certificates. By JOHN MILLAR, L.R.C.P. Ed. Second edition. Renshaw, 1877.

This is a second edition of Mr. Millar's excellent "Hints on Insanity." In it he gives not only all the necessary information concerning the proper statutory forms to be complied with in order to place an insane person under care and treatment, and the fullest advice with regard to filling up certificates, but a great deal of practical information concerning the different varieties of insanity and the best course to

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be pursued in dealing with them. The general practitioner will find it a book most useful to him. If he attends carefully to the full and explicit directions which Mr. Millar gives in the clearest language, he can hardly go wrong. If he does go wrong, then it is difficult to believe that instruction will avail to make him go right.

The Care and Cure of the Insane. Being the Reports of the "Lancet" Commission on Lunatic Asylums, 1875-6-7. By J. Mortimer Granville, M.D., F.L.S. 2 vols.

The "Lancet" instituted an enquiry, or "commission," in 1875; 1. To ascertain the general character and efficiency of the provisions made for the insane in asylums, and the conditions of their daily life; 2. To discover the measures, and, as far as may be possible, to formulate the system of treatment adopted for the cure of remediable or recent, and the relief of incurable or chronic cases; and thirdly, to collect and collate statistics of cases occurring within the last ten years at the asylums visited, with a view to estimate the results. The two bulky volumes we have to notice are the results of this enquiry. We shall not a say a word as to the necessity for such an enquiry conducted by an irresponsible newspaper in regard to great public institutions, with a Government Commission for their inspection long in existence, and which are already so inspected, suspected, and watched, that their medical officers, if they possess any sensibility at all, are kept in perpetual worry, their minds diverted from their proper duties through the work entailed by such enquiries, and their courage and nerve broken long before they arrive at old age through such things combined with the harassing nature of their professional employment. We are convinced that vigour of administration and honesty of management are often sacrificed now-a-days through such nagging, while the concentration of mind needed for studying and treating individual cases of the most obscure of all diseases cannot be attained. The life of an asylum doctor is not a bed of roses at the best, and the profession generally has been singularly unmindful of the status and interests of the men engaged in this branch of medicine; while the general medical press has often been flagrantly unjust towards it, combining real ignorance and popular prejudice with a lofty affectation of knowledge in its hostile criticism in a way that we never remember to have seen exhibited towards any other department of the profession. Such a state of matters tends

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