Gli Arii in Europa ed in Asia [The Aryans in Europe and Asia]. By G. SERGI. Bocca, Florence, 1902. Pp. 372, 8vo. Price 5.50 lire.

In this volume Prof. Sergi has presented us with a supplement to his *Mediterranean Race*, and has further discussed the great problem of the peopling of Europe and the origin of European civilisation. In the earlier volume he marshalled before us all the evidence which is gradually tending to show that the greater part of the population of Europe and the best part of its culture may be traced back to the dolichocephalic people—by him termed Eurafrican race—inhabiting both shores of the Mediterranean. In the present volume he discusses the origin of the Asiatic brachycephalic element in European populations, and its relationship to the Aryan family of languages. It is admitted that Asiatic migrations into Europe occurred at the end of the Neolithic period, and that at the same period metals appeared in Europe, as well as the practice of cremation. Sergi has come to the conclusion that the Asiatic invaders brought with them the primitive Aryan languages, but that they were savages, and that the appearance of metals at about the same period was a fortuitous coincidence. These invaders were of the same race as the Tajiks and Usbeks who to-day inhabit the regions to the north of India, and may be regarded as Mongoloid peoples, representing a cross between Eurafrican dolichocephals and Asiatic brachycephals. He does not, however, consider that these Mongoloid tribes originated the Aryan speech, but that they learnt it in the course of mingling with the dolichocephalic people of India, by whom they may be said to have been Aryanised. Sergi rightly regards the term "Aryan" as having a merely linguistic sense, and not as the name of a human variety. It is curious, however, to observe that, by a complete but silently made change, he now uses the term in an entirely different way from that in which he formerly used it. Before he called the brachycephalic invaders of Europe Aryans, now he regards them merely as "Aryanised," the "legitimate Aryans" being the dolichocephals belonging to the extreme eastern branch in India. It is evident that the less we use this elusive term "Aryan" the better.

The book remains, however, an interesting contribution to a problem which will doubtless long continue to prove fascinating. The author has sought to avoid all unnecessary technicalities, so that the volume is easy reading. It is illustrated with maps and many excellent facial types.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Merck's Annual Report, 1902.

This valuable *résumé* of the recent advances made in pharmacology and therapeutics is each year becoming more widely known and appreciated: the present number maintains the excellence of preceding years.

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Of special interest to the alienist will be found the references to the cacodylates, in which the arsenic present is regarded as to some extent latent. The administration is chiefly by hypodermic injection, according to rules which are strictly laid down in this number and in Merck's report, 1900, but the administration *per os* or *per rectum* is also employed. The cacodylates are prescribed as metabolic stimulants in states of malnutrition, also in neurasthenic states and in conditions of mental depression associated with defective nutrition (Paulet and Gautier).

In connection with this the glycero-arseniates may be referred to. The lime salt is employed in conditions in which its counterpart, calcium glycero-phosphate, has been employed, viz., in states of malnutrition. The administration by mouth promises most, as the hypodermic method involves the use of citric acid as a solvent, and this causes pain.

Lecithin claims attention for similar reasons, viz., as promoting a healthy tissue activity. Administered either by mouth or hypodermically, it has been used in neurasthenia and various nervous affections (Gilbert, Fournier), in tabes, general paralysis, certain psychological conditions, and in hysteria (Hartenberg). In addition it is used in various states of impaired nutrition. Lecithin is easily assimilable, and is a vehicle of phosphorus, to which element much is attributed.

The list of nutrients is swelled by such preparations as alboferine, iron-tropon, mutase, plantose, roborin (obtained from the blood, and consisting mainly of calcium albuminates), sicco (a dried form of hæmatogen). We stand in great need of a reliable valuation of the many nutrients now on the market.

Among drugs of much interest may be enumerated bromipin and iodipin, which, as vehicles of bromine and iodine action, appear to convey their influence with less risk of intoxication. Recent investigations confirm the value of these drugs, and the former has now been extensively and successfully used in epilepsy.

Dionine continues to gain ground as a morphia substitute, and it has been recently prescribed by Maëwski in states of mental excitement, also in cases of increased sexual impulse, and in paroxysmal masturbation. In these cases dionine is injected hypodermically in the dose of gr. $\frac{2}{3}$—$\frac{3}{4}$. In the treatment of morphinomania it may be administered *per os* in doses of grs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ four times daily, whilst at the same time pure water is injected subcutaneously as a placebo.

Further use of dormiol (amylene chloral) confirms its usefulness. It is stated on the authority of a fresh list of observers to be without the depressant effects of chloral hydrate, and the unpleasant taste of paraldehyde and amylene hydrate. It acts more promptly than sulphonal, and gives a refreshing sleep of five to eight hours. It is best administered in capsules containing 7—8 grains; the dose is one, two, or three capsules.

Hedonal (methyl-propyl-carbinol-urethane) cannot be said to make headway; its taste is unpleasant, its action uncertain, and its price high. E. Müller, who reports more recently upon it, finds it a harmless hypnotic in doses of 30—45 grains, and suited to mild forms of

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insomnia, but even in these cases its effect is found to diminish, and the dose has often to be very considerably raised, viz., to grs. 80 and over.

There are many other drugs to which we might refer, but we can do no more now than commend this valuable report for careful study.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Anthropology.

The Sexual Impulse in Women. (*Amer. Journ. of Dermatology, March,* 1902.) *Havelock Ellis.*

THIS paper is an abstract of a study which is to be embodied in the author's *Psychology of Sex.*

Ellis points out that there is considerable divergence of opinion as to the frequency and strength of sexual impulse in women. His own direct observations on educated Englishwomen of the middle class dispose him to think that genuine cases of absence of sexual feeling are extremely rare. Notably he found that amongst the more highly intelligent energetic women, the sexual emotion was strong.

The impulse in women, however, differs from that in men in at least five well-marked characteristics: (1) it shows greater apparent passivity; (2) it is less apt to appear spontaneously, more often needing to be aroused; (3) it tends to become stronger after sexual relationships are established, and the threshold of excess is less easily reached than in men; (4) the sexual sphere is larger and more diffused; (5) there is a more marked tendency to periodicity in the spontaneous manifestations of desire. Largely as a result of these characteristics, the sexual impulse shows a greater range of variation in women than in men, both as between woman and woman, and in the same woman at different periods.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Brain of a Criminal [*Das Gehirn des Mörders. Bobbe*] (*Corresp.-Blatt d. Deutsch. Gesell. f. Anth., Nov. and Dec.,* 1901). *Waldeyer.*

The eminent Berlin anatomist here gives a summary of his examination of a German criminal, who after murdering a number of persons, apparently with much deliberation, finally shot himself. His crimes extended over some years.

The skull offered no special peculiarities, except that it was relatively large and thin. It was mesocephalic. The brain, when removed from

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