

Three years after the patient had remained perfectly well, there being no trace of mental or nervous instability, peculiarity, or defect, to suggest the occurrence of a former severe psychic degeneration.

T. DRAPES.

3. Sociology.

Eugenic Factors in Jewish Life. (The American Hebrew, January-February, 1917.) Fishberg, M.

It is well known that the Jews produce a very much larger proportion of persons of marked ability than the nations among which they live. Thus, although constituting less than one-third *per cent.* of white humanity, about a dozen of those who have received Nobel prizes have been Jews, and of the three American men of science who were awarded the Nobel prize, one was of Jewish extraction. It is also known that there is a very much larger proportion of mental defectives, insane, idiots, congenitally deformed, and physically weak or puny individuals among the Jews than in any other civilised religious, social, or ethnic group. Dr. Maurice Fishberg, of New York, a distinguished authority on Jewish anthropology and sociology, author of a comprehensive book on *The Jews*, here attempts to explain these two apparently contradictory facts. The considerations he thus brings forward have an important bearing on heredity as well as on eugenics and dysgenics.

Up to about seventy-five years ago practically all Jews were orthodox and intensely religious, following Biblical and rabbinical ordinances in matters of matrimony as in everything else. These ordinances were on the whole more eugenic than Christian or Mohammedan marriage laws, but with important exceptions. Every Jew was bound to marry and procreate as early as possible in life—before the age of eighteen—and for Jewesses before sixteen, but not before thirteen. Recalcitrants were forced to marry. Marriage for money was deprecated; the bride must belong to a worthy family, and above all it was desirable that she should be the daughter of a learned man. The mediæval and late Jews were thus apparently great believers in heredity, and their ideals of marriage centred in intellect and learning. If the rich could not find scholarly husbands for their daughters in their own circles they would seek them among the poor. Rich learned castes were thus formed, but not wealth, or old stock, was the core of the caste, but intellect. A promising boy among the poor was always sought out, educated, and well married, and an intellectual aristocracy thus constituted. It is on this foundation that the great achievements of the Jewish mind have arisen.

But there is another side to Jewish marriage laws and customs. In the first place, while regard was had to the beauty and physical condition of a bride, there was complete indifference to the physical defects of the bridegroom, provided he was a scholar. Moreover, although the beautiful bride was preferred, every Jew and Jewess, even if a physical and mental cripple, was encouraged to marry and to propagate. The blind were united with the lame, the insane with the imbecile, etc., and a remarkable and far-reaching dysgenic influence was furnished by societies to supply these unfortunates with dowries and trousseaux.

Such societies still exist, not only in Eastern, but even in Western Europe. Thus it is that, beside the excess of superior members in a Jewish community, there is also an excess of paupers and defectives, with a large number of borderland cases fairly healthy but with sub-normal energy, so that they are periodically out of employment; as they do not become drunkards, and are consequently considered by the charitable as "deserving," they are encouraged to go on increasing their numbers.

These conditions are changing. The Jews are adopting the customs of their non-Jewish neighbours. The number of defectives will thus be diminished. The proportion of intellectually superior Jews will also be diminished. "Whether the loss thus sustained in the number of capable Jews is compensated by the decrease in the number of defectives," Fishberg concludes, "depends on the point of view."

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

The Madness of an Emperor, or the Aberration of a Nation? [Pazzia d'Imperatore o Aberrazione Nazionale?] (*Rivista di Patologia Nervosa e Mentale, Anno xx, fasc. 7, 1915.*) Prof. Ernesto Lugaro.

Among the many books and pamphlets which have been published on the psychology of the authors of the present war, that is to say, not only on the psychology of the two Emperors and that of the chief members of their governments, but also on that of the German peoples, Prof. Lugaro's article takes a high rank. It is one of the most powerful indictments of the German race which has appeared, but the facts by which the arguments are supported, are proved facts, and the conclusion is arrived at logically, step by step.

The writer examines briefly the case of Francis Joseph, "a man of intellectual mediocrity, and moral insensibility," to whom no one has ever attributed a generous act, a happy phrase, or a far-seeing thought. Possibly during the last few years he was sinking into senile dementia.

William's case is considered more in detail. But after making due allowance for his atrophied limb, his epileptiform seizures, his vanity—oscillating between sheer childishness and the delusions of a paranoiac—his brutal, blasphemous speeches, his duplicity, the writer only sees in the German Emperor "a docile, though sometimes maladroit, instrument in the hands of the German Government."

The Professor pushes aside the two Emperors almost contemptuously. He proceeds to study the German race, politically, morally, socially.

He recites the history of the double-dealing policy of Germany from the days of Frederick II to those of Bismarck and Bethmann-Hollweg. "It was not only in August, 1914, but for two centuries that Germany has sustained the theory that treaties are only to be respected while it is convenient to do so."

The various systems of German espionage are described in detail. Foreign espionage is considered under the heads of military and economic, the latter being the more perfidious and unscrupulous. As to the domestic espionage, it is so terrible that one cannot believe that any but a race of slaves would submit to it.