

beliefs of various philanthropic and religious organisations.

It has been proved a thousand times that the genuine criminal is never reformed, in fact nowadays practical men have ceased to look upon prison life as being either reformatory or deterrent. Prisons are simply places where the prisoner is suspended from habits of crime. However, so long as the present judicial system of fixed sentences is in vogue, the prisoner is not even for long suspended; this system being due to the legal mind taking cognizance only of the crime, and not of the person who commits it.

We must now indicate more clearly the contents of the volume before us. Chapters III and VI are the most important in the book, and deal with the most debatable subject, not that there is any question as to the facts, but rather as regards their significance.

The cranial and cerebral characteristics of the instinctive criminal are described, his face, the anomalies of his face, his physiognomy, his body and viscera, motor, activity and physical sensibility; the next chapter deals with his psychological characters, his moral insensibility, his intelligence, his vanity, and emotional instability. Then follow interesting chapters on religion, slang, tattooing, prison inscriptions, criminal literature, art and philosophy. The morbid vanity, the literary intelligence and the sensuality of the instinctive criminal are well illustrated in the lives of three well-known literary degenerates, Wainwright, Verlaine and Oscar Wilde.

The volume concludes with interesting chapters on the results of criminal anthropology, and the treatment of the criminal. The appendix contains 28 pictures of typical criminals and has a discussion on criminality in children and on the New York Prison, Elmira.

The book in its present form is a valuable and interesting study, which we can strongly recommend to all interested in social subjects. It is ten years nearly now since we studied the first edition of this book, and the lessons there learnt, have, we believe, much aided us in our dealings with criminals ever since. It has enabled us to understand better and to deal more satisfactorily with the habitual criminals of our Indian prisons. The law takes only cognizance of the crime, it is, we think, the duty of the Superintendent or the Medical Officer of the prison to try to understand the criminal. The material in our Indian prisons is ample, and even the biological and anatomical peculiarities or abnormalities described in this book will be found to be very largely present among the habituals of any Indian prison, and afford an interesting study to the medical man.

Official Year Book of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland. London, 1901. Charles Griffin & Co., Ld.

THIS well-known annual is the eighteenth issue, and during this period it has earned the reputa-

tion of being an accurate and concise review of the history, organisation and conditions of membership of the various scientific and learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland. It is compiled from data furnished by the societies themselves, and each year chronicles the work done by each society, giving the title of every paper read or published with the name of the authors.

In accordance with suggestions made by the Royal Society and others, the publishers have arranged that the publication of this annual shall correspond as closely as possible with the *sessional* year (September to June) rather than the calendar year. Henceforth therefore the annual volume will appear as soon after June as possible, and the present volume comprises lists of all papers read at the various societies during the eighteen months from January 1900 to June 1901. It is an invaluable index to British scientific literature.

Lessons in Massage. By MARGARET D. PALMER. London, 1901. Baillière, Tindall & Cox.

MASSAGE is a subject full of interest for medical men practising in India, where a good deal more is known about its advantages and its methods than the author of this book would, perhaps, be willing to allow of men who are lamentably ignorant of the anatomy of the human body.

What deals with massage proper in the book consists of the lectures delivered to the author's pupils at the London Hospital, her experience at which institution qualifies her to speak with authority. In the published work she has added what she considers indispensable of elementary anatomy and physiology for the intelligent execution of her duties by the trained masseuse. That some knowledge of this sort is absolutely necessary, no one would dispute, but we venture to doubt whether the study of the plates and tables given in this book would greatly forward the students' knowledge of anatomy unless the facts detailed were verified in the dissecting room.

For that portion of the book that deals with the methods and practice of massage we have nothing but praise, though we should have preferred to see good English used in the place of such terms as "*effleurage*" and "*petrissage*" and others of that *ilk* that savour of the charlatan. The detailed instruction given as to the methods of dealing with special ailments are particularly useful. Here we would specially draw attention to that part which deals with curvatures of the spine.

The numerous illustrations of the book are throughout excellent and helpful, and the publishers are to be congratulated on the way in which they have brought out a book that cannot help being useful to a large and growing class of practitioners of massage as well as to the medical profession in general whose acquaintance with the subject might well be more intimate. The book in its present form will, perhaps, be more intelligible to the latter class than to the former.