

SOCIAL AND EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY.

(1) *An Introduction to Social Psychology*. By William McDougall. Pp. xv+355. (London: Methuen and Co., n.d.) Price 5s. net.

(2) *Lectures on the Elementary Psychology of Feeling and Attention*. By Prof. E. B. Titchener. Pp. ix+404. (New York: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1908.) Price 6s. net.

(1) THE general nature and scope of Mr. McDougall's book is admirably expressed, in the words of his preface, as "an attempt to deal with a difficult branch of psychology in a way that shall make it intelligible and interesting to any cultivated reader, and that shall imply no previous familiarity with psychological treatises on his part; . . . a book that may be of service to students of all the social sciences, by providing them with the minimum of psychological doctrine that is an indispensable part of the equipment for work in any of these sciences." After an introductory chapter pointing out the grave need in the sciences of ethics, economics, history, and politics for a more accurate and thoroughgoing psychological analysis than that employed at the present time, the author proceeds to give a description and classification of the emotional constituents of the mind, which he vindicates as of paramount importance for social life.

The principle of classification adopted is new, in that it involves an identification of emotion and instinct as the psychical and physical aspects, respectively, of the same process. On this assumption the list of primary emotions receives support and confirmation from the list of principal instincts of specific tendency with which they are individually correlated. These principal instincts and emotions are as follows:—the instinct of flight and the emotion of fear, the instinct of repulsion and the emotion of disgust, the instinct of curiosity and the emotion of wonder, the instinct of pugnacity and the emotion of anger, the instincts of self-abasement (or subjection) and of self-assertion (or self-display), and the emotions of subjection and elation (or negative and positive self-feeling), the parental instinct and the tender emotion. The more complex emotions are shown to admit of complete description as combinations of two or more of these primary emotions, either by themselves or within a "sentiment." Moreover, this conception of "sentiment," due originally to Mr. A. F. Shand, is given a physiological interpretation by the author. The difficult task of displaying the course of development of the moral sentiments is remarkably well done, and in a subsequent chapter on volition Mr. McDougall comes to closer quarters with the question of free-will than any other modern psychologist, giving, *inter alia*, a good psychological solution of Prof. James's difficulty of "action in the line of greatest resistance."

The last hundred pages of the book are devoted to the more strictly sociological question of the working of the primary mental tendencies in social life.

In bringing together emotion and instinct, Mr. McDougall has made an original contribution to

psychological science of the highest value and importance, and even if he does not succeed in carrying his fellow-psychologists all the way with him in his identification of the two, he will have set the problem of their relation in a form which is itself at least half the solution. Before the theory can be accepted as it stands, reason must be given for the occasional occurrence of well-marked instinctive activities unaccompanied by any clearly defined emotion. Again, the absence of joy and sorrow from the list of primary emotions, although necessitated by the theory, is not easy to justify on purely psychological grounds; the account given of them in the text, viz., that they are qualifications of other emotions, is not quite convincing.

The book is full of close reasoning, but is written in so lucid a style that it makes very pleasant reading. Its importance is more than academic; there are political theorists at the present day who would do well to take some of its teachings to heart.

(2) Prof. Titchener's book is a publication of lectures delivered at Columbia University last spring. The lectures deal with the problems of feeling and attention from the experimental standpoint, and are profusely annotated with quotations from and references to all the most recent experimental work. This fact, together with a clearness of statement, should make the book very popular. The one and only weakness of the book is its slight bias towards sensationalism, which makes the author very unfair in his treatment of such a theory as that of Prof. H. R. Marshall, and perhaps explains his tendency to quote Prof. Külpe as final. The development of a theory of attention as sensory clearness is admirably done, and should go far towards converting psychologists (old style) to the experimental method.

WILLIAM BROWN.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Die Termiten oder weissen Ameisen. Eine Biologische Studie. By K. Escherich. Pp. xii+198; coloured frontispiece, and 51 figures in the text. (Leipzig: D. W. Klinkhardt, 1909.) Price 6 marks.

ALTHOUGH the termites, or white ants as they are frequently called, belong to the order Neuroptera, and not to the Hymenoptera like the three other great classes of social insects, the ants, bees, and wasps, yet they closely resemble the ants in their habits and domestic arrangements, as well as in their economic importance, in the countries which they inhabit. As a rule they shun the light, and always work in darkness in their underground nests and galleries, and in most places in the tropics they are extremely destructive to all kinds of woodwork. The raised nests of some species are even more gigantic above ground than those of the ants, those of one Australian species being built in the form of a solid wall twenty feet high. In South Africa, as shown in an illustration on p. 158 of the book before us, the hollowed-out nests of termites are frequently used by natives and colonists as ovens.

Prof. Escherich has given us an extremely useful treatise on these insects, which he regards as far superior to the ants; though in his preface he discusses the difference between human reason and the collective and inherited "instinct" of social insects.