

accent we do not know.) The choice of the name seems to imply a slight on other systems, but probably nothing of the kind is intended, and it is only an expression of the author's boisterous confidence in his own powers.

The personal note is predominant throughout and makes it peculiarly difficult to discuss the doctrine, and impossible to controvert any of the positions. Of course, in psychology, the personal experience carries a peculiar weight. What Mr. Lynch explains to us is how he won his way to the possession of the clear mental grasp of the problem he now enjoys; how he overcame the stumbling-blocks he had to encounter in the perversity of authoritative teachers; how these obstructions actually served him to gain his vantage-point; and how we, if we will follow him, may become mental athletes also. Naturally his appeal is to the young. The curious thing to the older reader is that the solution offered as new is certainly not novel. We are to find the fundamental processes of mind in the same way in which the chemist and the physicist find the fundamental processes of matter. Having discovered them we shall find for the science of psychology, as they find for the sciences of chemistry and physics, that construction follows naturally. Very good, we may think, at any rate as a preliminary discipline,—but then Mr. Lynch does not set his followers to look for these fundamental processes, he puts in their hands the list of them. The processes are twelve in number, and the proof that they are fundamental and that the list is exhaustive is that Mr. Lynch has himself verified that they are so.

The reader will find an enormous number of references to other writers and an extensive survey of science in all its branches. Special importance is attached by the author to the section on memory, the whole of which is based on careful observations and experiments in connexion with his own personal experience.

Our Bookshelf.

John Penrose: a Romance of the Land's End. By J. C. Tregarthen. Pp. vi + 342. (London: J. Murray, 1923.) 7s. 6d. net.

It is not often that a book of fiction comes within the class of literature appropriately noticed in NATURE, but Mr. Tregarthen includes in his delightful romance of "John Penrose" so many interesting sketches of the wild life of the Land's End peninsula that we feel justified in recommending the book to all students of natural history.

Those who know West Cornwall must recall many an old man such as John Penrose was when the local parson inspired him to "put down" his recollections as the not uncommon farm boy who is keenly observant of the habits of the many pests, and a few wild friends, of the farmer working a small patch of land adjacent to

an unreclaimed moorland. The wild animals come into the story as naturally as the human characters, and, with references to them, the author records many old local customs and beliefs that are in danger of being forgotten, as well as sayings and expressions of the old folk which are in danger of becoming obsolete through the influence of the modern school teacher, who, too often, gives his pupil the impression that old English provincialisms are vulgarisms inconsistent with modern education.

Not the least interesting among the conclusions to be gathered from the incidents described is the local attitude of highly respectable people to smuggling: to be entrapped by the preventive officers carried its measure of disgrace, but neither the otherwise rigidly honourable yeoman, nor even the parson, thought it wrong to conceal information about smuggling.

It is not easy to avoid anachronisms when writing autobiographically about a past period, and Mr. Tregarthen has not succeeded in avoiding every pitfall. In referring to the miners who had returned from the gold diggings of California the author recalls a familiar feature of West Cornish life in the 'sixties and 'seventies, but the incidents which he describes on pp. 2, 65, and 68 obviously refer to a period before 1848, the year in which the first Californian gold fever actually started.

T. H. H.

The Annual of the British School at Athens. No. 24. Sessions 1919-1920; 1920-1921. Pp. viii + 280 + 14 Plates. With Supplementary Paper No. 1: *The Unpublished Objects from the Palaikastro Excavations, 1902-1906.* Described by R. C. Bosanquet and R. M. Dawkins. Part 1. Pp. xii + 160 + 34 Plates. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1923.) 63s. net.

THE article of most general interest in this excellent number is that by Mr. C. A. Boëthius on primitive house types as illustrated from Mycenaean and Nordic structures. The results of recent excavation on prehistoric Greek sites show that there is no evidence to support, still less to prove, the widespread assumption that the round hoop-roofed house is the original type from which all forms of human houses have been evolved. There is a considerable variety of primitive forms, and both rectangular and round huts and houses occur contemporaneously in ancient times and at the present day among primitive races. In Greece the neolithic material shows that well-developed round huts and equally advanced rectangular houses were contemporaneous. In Sweden we find round huts, possibly developed from a primitive tent or a screen against wind and rain. In the Bronze Age come oval houses developing into the rectangular form. "The evidence of primitive European dwellings shows, besides round tents or huts and pent roof structures, horseshoe screens with a fire in front of them, and rectangular screens with their various forms of development centring on the fire. Anywhere in Europe, climate and material can thus suggest a beginning which leads to a round hut, a horseshoe-shaped hut, or a rectangular hut with a central or eccentric hearth, and door at one end. A rectangular house with a central hearth can be just as elementary as a round or horseshoe-shaped neolithic hut, and of entirely independent origin."