

coming, in particular, of the occurrence of sudden death after repeated and successful administration of serum. The name of 'anaphylaxis' was given by Richet to this type of sensitiveness; and since that time a number of experiments have considerably improved the practice and effectiveness of serotherapy. Richet's "Dictionnaire de physiologie", begun in 1895, is a comprehensive study of the whole subject. He also wrote "Recherches sur la sensibilité" and "La Physiologie des muscles et des nerfs".

In later years, Richet was interested more and more in psychology and especially in the investigation of borderland phenomena. He objected to the use of the words "abnormal" or "occult" in connexion with such phenomena, as he held them to be just as natural as any others, and therefore just as much entitled to investigation by the ordinary methods of science. In 1905, the year in which he was elected president of the Society for Psychical Research, he proposed to give the name *Métapsychique* to the new science of these phenomena, which he classified under three principal types: cryptesthesia (clairvoyance), telekinesis (action at a distance without contact) and ectoplasmy (materialisation). He contended that as these phenomena occur, they must be real and subject to laws which ought to be discovered by unbiased scientific investigation. These views, which follow closely the work of Sir William Crookes (1872), are illustrated in his "Thirty years of Psychical Research", of which an English translation appeared in 1923, and which is an immense collection of cases of varying evidential value. A smaller volume, partly based on the first, appeared in English in 1929 under the title "Our Sixth Sense". Though Richet considered metapsychics to be still in its infancy, he hoped, with many other distinguished philosophers and psychologists, to see it gradually develop into a full science.

In the realm of psychology proper, Richet adopted the mechanistic theories of Descartes, which he endeavoured to extend to man himself, as had already been suggested by Lamettrie's "L'Homme Machine". Mind cannot be independent of matter, but rather subject to its fundamental laws. There is no gap between the psychical and the physiological; and the 'higher' faculties of man can be easily explained by inferior phenomena with such laws as those of reflex movements, of irritation and of association ("Traité de psychologie générale", 1912). Consequently, if introspection is useful for the study of the decisions of the conscience, it cannot help in the investigation of psychological phenomena, which must be entirely experimental. This ruthless determinism, which was well in keeping with the prevalent ideas among French men of science at the beginning of this century, caused Richet to deny the necessity of any metaphysical conceptions and to predict the death of metaphysics.

Charles Richet was born in Paris on August 25, 1850. Following the footsteps of his father and his maternal grandfather, he studied science and medicine and obtained an M.D. at the Paris Faculty of Medicine in 1876. He then worked under Marey at

the Collège de France, and in 1887 he was appointed professor of physiology and medicine in the University of Paris. His first discovery was that of the presence of hydrochloric acid in the gastric juice. He investigated the relation between respiration and the area of body surface; and he carried out a good deal of research on animal heat. He also studied the problem of epilepsy and the treatment of tuberculous patients by dieting them on raw meat.

The interests of Charles Richet were not limited to physiology and psychology. He followed from the beginning the development of aeronautics and he made a name for himself as a novelist and a playwright, two of his plays ("Socrate" and "Ciré") having been performed at the Odéon, in Paris. He was also a convinced pacifist and president of the Société pour l'Arbitrage entre les Nations. A member of the Academy of Medicine since 1896, Charles Richet was elected in 1914 to the Academy of Sciences. His scientific jubilee was celebrated in 1926, at the Paris Academy of Medicine, with the official participation of savants from many countries. On that occasion, Marshal Foch invested him with the insignia of Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour. T. G.

---

WE regret to announce the death last September in his seventieth year of the eminent Italian physiologist, Prof. Luigi Mariano Patrizi, who was born at Recanati near Ancona on September 13, 1866. He studied under J. Moleschott in Rome, where he qualified in 1890. After serving as assistant to Angelo Mosso at Turin, he occupied in succession the chair of physiology at Ferrara (1894), Sassari (1896) and Bologna (1924). During the period 1911-24 he was professor of criminal anthropology at Turin. His work was chiefly concerned with the psychometry of attention, the physiology of the intellect and criminal physiology and psychiatry. His publications include a psycho-anthropological study of Leopardi and his family (1896), the physiology of the bandit Giuseppe Musolino (1904), "The Orator" (1912), "After Lombroso" (1916) and a work on the physiological measurement of the emotions and passion (1924).

---

WE regret to announce the death on November 19, at the age of sixty-six years, of Dr. Dan McKenzie, who besides being a consulting surgeon in diseases of the ear, nose and throat and a former editor of the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology*, was a keen student of medical history and folk-lore. In addition to a textbook on his speciality, of which the second edition appeared in 1927, he was the author of "The City of Din" (1916), "Aromatics and the Soul: a Study of Smells" (1923), and "The Infancy of Medicine: an Enquiry into the Influence of Folk-Lore upon the Evolution of Scientific Medicine" (1927), of which a notice appeared in *NATURE* of January 28, 1928, p. 133.