

Mr. Elliot's system, the other in the fashion followed by any reasonable farmer in the district. In fact, the book proves nothing more than that Mr. Elliot, by using good seed and looking carefully after his grass land, has improved his farm in his own opinion and in that of various of his visitors; otherwise the book is a farrago of irresponsible talk, of hard words for agricultural chemists and science generally, of diatribes against the Board of Agriculture and everyone else who does not see eye to eye with Mr. Elliot; it bears every mark, in fact, of the work of the man with one idea.

#### SOCIOLOGY.

*Sociological Papers Published for the Sociological Society.* Pp. xviii+292. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1905.) Price 10s. 6d.

THESE papers, the *Transactions* of the Sociological Society, make known to the world what work the society has done during the first year of its existence, and explain the aim and scope of the work it hopes to do in the future.

The first paper recounts the history of the word sociology. After that we get to the fundamental question of eugenics, "the science which deals with all the influences that improve the inborn qualities of the race; also with those that develop them to the utmost advantage." Mr. Francis Galton, the author of this paper, would have the principles of eugenics "introduced into the national conscience, like a new religion," that so a fine race may be bred. The discussion that followed was very interesting. The view held by most medical men who have reached middle age was put without any qualification, the view that we cannot attempt to deal with "a mass of scientific questions affecting heredity," but that we must concentrate our attention on more practical questions, such as the feeding of infants. Mr. Archdall Reid, on the other hand, in a written communication, brings out with admirable lucidity the distinction between degeneracy properly so called and the defective development of the individual. These questions, both of them urgent, we must face. "In the first place we must improve the conditions under which the individual develops, and so make him a fine animal. In the second place we must endeavour to restrict as far as possible the marriage of the physically and mentally unfit." Mr. Reid might have gone on to say that the former method without the latter, the improvement of external conditions without any check upon the multiplication of the unfit, would merely hasten degeneration, as any slackening in the stringency of natural selection must inevitably do. Mr. Bateson declines to join in investigations carried on by the "actuarial" method, preferring experimental breeding with its more definite results. But is it possible to experiment with human beings?

Prof. Geddes, in his "Civics," recommends to students a geographical survey of some river basin in which is displayed the evolutionary process which, beginning with "hunting desolations" on the hill-

tops, culminates in some great manufacturing city that darkens the heavens with its smoke. It is doubtful how far this method can afford definitely practical help in solving the problems of modern industrial society. Still, the historical method is capable of imparting an interest to a science which to not a few men is dismal, and certainly anything that can make our great cities interesting is to be welcomed. Dr. E. Westermarck investigates the position of woman in early civilisation, showing that she was by no means, as a rule, a slave and a nonentity, but he owns that "the condition of women or their relative independence is by no means a safe gauge of the culture of a nation." Mr. P. H. Mann follows with a paper on "Life in an Agricultural Village in England," an investigation of the economic condition of the inhabitants. He follows the method of Mr. Charles Booth and Mr. Rowntree in the study of city populations. Prof. Durkheim and Mr. Branford discuss the relation of sociology to the social sciences and to philosophy. Prof. Durkheim contends that sociology is not a mere organisation of more specialist sciences, but that it is capable of remodelling them. Historians, for instance, and political economists have already had to "reorient their studies."

In conclusion, we must congratulate the Sociological Society on its first year's work. Beyond the work which can be definitely gauged there has been the bringing together of men who hold very different views, and of men who are attacking the same great problem from different sides. F. W. H.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*First Report of the Wellcome Research Laboratories at the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum.* By the Director, Andrew Balfour, M.D., B.Sc., &c. (Khartoum: Department of Education, Sudan Government, 1904.)

THE Wellcome Research Laboratories of the Gordon College, Khartoum, which were equipped by the munificence of Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, have certainly justified their existence, judging by the record of work done during the year February, 1903, to February, 1904, as detailed in the report of the director, Dr. Andrew Balfour.

The volume commences with a brief description of the laboratories, after which follows an account of the various researches that have been carried out in them.

Any medical director stationed where malaria is endemic and mosquitoes plentiful would at once direct his attention to the distribution of the latter, and institute measures to diminish their prevalence. This has been done by Dr. Balfour, and the first article is devoted to a description of his observations and administration in this respect. Of mosquitoes three species are particularly numerous, *C. fatigans*, an anophelina, *P. costalis*, and *Stegomyia fasciata*. Mosquito brigades have been organised, and anti-malarial measures conducted on the lines recommended by Ross, and there appears to be every probability that the prevalence of mosquitoes will be greatly diminished in Khartoum in the near future. Collections of mosquitoes have been received from various parts of Egypt, the Sudan, and Abyssinia, and have been examined and named by Mr. Theobald, who contributes an article descriptive of the species, many of which