

- Johnson, Edith Henry. *The Argument of Aristotle's Metaphysics*. New York: Lemcke & Buechner, Agents. 1906. Pp. 186.
- Ribot, Th. *Essai sur les passions*. Paris: Félix Alcan. 1906. Pp. vii + 192. 3 fr. 75.
- Talbot, Ellen Bliss. *The Fundamental Principle of Fichte's Philosophy*. Cornell Studies in Philosophy, No. 7. New York and London: The Macmillan Co. 1906. Pp. vi + 140. \$1.00 net.
- Zschimmer, Eberhard. *Eine Untersuchung über Raum, Zeit und Begriffe vom Standpunkt des Positivismus*. Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1906. Pp. 54. 1s. 6d. net.

---

## NOTES AND NEWS

CHARLES A. OLIVER, A.M., M.D., contributes in the *New York Medical Journal* of November 10 a study of the 'nativity, sex and age, occupation and social condition of three thousand four hundred and thirty-six cases of senile cataract operated upon at the Wills Hospital in Philadelphia.' The operations were performed by the various members of the attending staff and covered a period of thirty-five years. The cases employed were limited so far as possible to those in which the 'usual clinical appearances of so-called senile cataract were not complicated by any other demonstrable expressions of cause and effect than those which are significant of the gradual retrograde changes denominated by senility.' The following is an extract from the statistics given: "*Nativity*: It has been found that there were fifteen hundred and thirty-five foreign-born cases and nineteen hundred and one native-born ones. Of the foreign-born groupings, Ireland furnished the greatest number throughout the three and a half decades; actually rising to some fifty-five per cent. This was closely followed by Germany with thirty and some per cent., England with ten per cent. and Wales and Scotland with three and two per cent., respectively. Among the native-born, Pennsylvania, with its preponderant sixty-five per cent., naturally gave a long lead, followed by fifteen per cent. for New Jersey, ten per cent. for Delaware and five per cent. each for Maryland and New York. *Sex and age*: With the native-born male American there existed the highest average age for operation, and hence most probably that of maturity of his cataract. During the first decade it was 64.5 years, increasing one tenth to 64.6 years for the second decade and rising another tenth (64.7 years) in the third decade—until in the first half of the last decade (to date) it has arisen to the remarkable average of 67.6 years. The Irish male, commencing at 61.7 years, falling two tenths (61.5 years) in the second decade, and rising four tenths (61.9 years) in the third, showed a final increase of six tenths (62.5 years) in the last half decade. The male German, beginning lower, at 60.6 years, gave a rise to 60.9 years in the second decade, with a sudden jump to 64 years in the third—to which he finally added eight tenths of a year

(64.8 years). The Englishman and the Scotchman at 60 years and 59 years each, rose to 63.5 years and 60 years, with a rise of the former to 65.3 years and a fall of the latter to 58 years—to at last give the phenomenal jumps of 70 years and 71 years respectively. Among seven hundred and thirty native-born women, forming about fifty per cent. of the total of fourteen hundred and fifty-two female cases in the series, it was found that the average operation age during the first decade was 63.1 years, increasing in the second decade to 65.4 years, and decreasing in the third decade to 64.3 years; ultimately rising in the last five years to 63.8 years; thus giving an increase of seven tenths of a year as the general average. The Irish female ratio increased regularly through the four decades from 60 years to 60.8 years, to 62.1 years, and to 63.2 years as the final average; a very marked gain in the proportion. The German female, commencing with 62 years, fell to 60.8 years in the second decade, to rise to 63.9 years in the third, and to give an enormous leap to 68.5 years as the average for the last half decade; a most remarkable betterment. The English woman and the Scotch woman, commencing at 62 years and 64 years, respectively, suddenly rose to 64 years and 73 years each, to again fall very low, 62 years and 60 years each, but ultimately to reach 63.2 years as the final for the former, with a remarkable jump to 73 years as the final for the latter. *Occupation:* It was soon realized that as occupation among the male subjects played such an important part in regard to the maturity and even causation of the cataractous condition, it was necessary to divide the patients' vocations into four classes: (a) the unskilled laborer, (b) the skilled workman, (c) the high-grade artisan, (d) the brain-worker. The first great class, (a), composed principally of out-of-door laborers, although by far the greatest in number, gave the highest operative age average, sixty-six years, throughout the entire three and a half decades; the average practically remaining the same. The second class, (b), made up of blacksmiths, glass blowers and other workers in superheated materials, gave by far the lowest age for the operative procedure, fifty-eight years. The third class, (c), composed of those in such employment as book binders, compositors, edge-tool makers, engravers, jewelers, shoemakers (particularly) and tailors, showed the lenticular condition fit for removal at an average age of sixty-three years. The fourth class, (d), most probably by reason of better hygiene, etc., gave a very high operative age, sixty-five years, as the average."

THE following appointments have been made in the department of philosophy in the University of Michigan: Mr. Roy W. Sellars, A.B. (Michigan), some time fellow of the University of Wisconsin, instructor, and Mr. Frank van Vliet and Mr. L. W. Elder George S. Morris memorial fellows.

DR. FREDERICK TRACY has been promoted to an associate professorship in the department of philosophy in the University of Toronto, and Dr. T. R. Robinson and Mr. W. G. Smith have been added as lecturers to the staff of the department.