

M. Jacquart's chapter on method deals solely with such fundamental matters as the facts suitable for investigation, the *questionnaire*, &c.; mathematical method is ignored, except for a passing reference to elementary arithmetic (p. 81). Stress is laid on the necessity for a critical study of the original data and for careful and unbiassed investigation, and in the last chapter a few examples (statistics of illiteracy, marriage and longevity, &c.) are discussed as illustrations. The treatment is fair and lucid, but we should like to carry some of the discussion a little further.

If we might make a small criticism, it is that the style seems at times unduly flippant. The candidate for initiation should approach *La Statistique* with respect; M. Jacquart merely beseeches him to greet her with his least ironical smile . . . Surely this is not the best way to begin?  
G.U.Y.

2.—*Probability, the Foundation of Eugenics.* (*The Herbert Spencer Lecture.*) By Francis Galton, F.R.S. 30 pp., 8vo. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907. Price 1s. net.

We regret to notice, from *The Times* report, that Mr. Galton, owing to a slight accident, was unable to deliver the Herbert Spencer lecture, which was read in his absence on June 5th by Mr. Arthur Galton. The author gives a short sketch of the history of "eugenics," with references to his own papers on the subject and the work of Professor Pearson and the late Professor Weldon. In connection with the application of the theory of probability to the subject, an interesting outline is given of a short course of object-lessons in the methods of biometry. In concluding the lecture, Mr. Galton points out that human action is guided "less by certainty and by probability than by assurance to a greater or less degree," and assurance is largely dependent on custom, prejudice, and other unreasonable influences; but "whenever public opinion is strongly moved it will lead to action, however contradictory it may be to previous custom and sentiment," and "it is reasonable to expect that it will be strongly exerted in favour of eugenics when a sufficiency of evidence shall have been collected to make the truths on which it rests plain to all."  
G.U.Y.

3.—*Annuario Statistico della Città Italiana.* Anno I, 1906. 300 pp., 4to. Firenze: Alfani e Venturi, 1906.

At a conference of the mayors of the principal Italian towns, held on the 25th March, 1905, at Florence, on the invitation and under the presidency of Senator Niccolini, Syndic of that city, it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the publication of a Year-book of Statistics relating to the population, hygiene, public services, and finances of the larger municipalities of Italy. The plan for this work was drawn up by Professor Ugo Giusti, Principal of the Statistical Department of the Municipal Council of Florence, who was subsequently entrusted with the task of collecting and editing the material for the first volume. The participating municipalities contributed towards the cost of the scheme in proportion to their