

break of mania ; eight years later he had another apoplectic attack of the same kind, but less severe. On admission to Sonnestein, his condition was one of mental debility without active symptoms ; some weeks later, he became irritable and refractory, and developed a faculty for exuberant lying, manifested chiefly in letters to his relatives. In these letters, he made calumnious statements about his wife, his father, and other relations ; he imparted false and disagreeable items of news about himself, and he referred to imaginary correspondents, from whose letters and his replies thereto he quoted freely. These fictions had not the character of an organised delirium—the patient's rôle in them, notably, was quite subsidiary ; moreover he repeatedly admitted that his statements were deliberate falsehoods.

From his study of this, and the two cases reported in the first part of his paper, the author concludes that the pathological liar is sometimes quite aware of the falsity of his assertions. This is contrary to the opinion of Delbrück, who regarded the pathological lie as something between the ordinary lie and the delusion—as being, in fact, a lie which eventually deceived its author. Delbrück's and most other published cases were observed, however, *in foro*, where the patients had every motive to represent their fictions as delusional. Ranniger would still regard the lying of his patients as pathological, the characteristics of the morbid lie, in his opinion, being the exuberance of invention which marks it, and—of greater importance—the absence of all sense of shame on detection. Depending on defective development of the higher ethical conceptions and emotions, this symptom is always related to conditions of mental debility. When this debility is also marked in the intellectual sphere, and impairs the individual's judgment, the pathological lies are characteristically absurd.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Religious Emblems as Homicidal Weapons in Religious Insanity [*Les objets de piété comme instruments de meurtre dans le délire religieux*].
(*Arch. de Neur.*, April, 1900.) Cullerre, A.

This paper contains notes of three cases in which patients suffering from acute hallucinatory insanity with mystical delusions and homicidal impulses selected religious emblems as instruments of murder. The author points out that the suicides, homicides, and auto-mutilations occurring in religious insanity very often evidence a symbolic tendency in some of their details ; and he would be disposed to regard the frequent use of the knife by such patients as a result of the ritual associations of that instrument. When the weapon employed is a devotional object, the mystical intent appears unquestionable. In the first observation, the patient, a woman æt. 38, in the course of a hallucinatory attack of the melancholic type, suffocated her baby by thrusting a statue of the Virgin into its mouth ; the act was in obedience to an hallucinatory command. In the second case a man, æt. 29, suffering from hallucinations and delusions of damnation, and of persecution (especially by his parents), attempted, with much deliberation, to brain his father by striking him with a plaster statue of the Virgin. In the third observation a woman, æt. 34, presenting melancholic symptoms

with occasional *raptus*, swallowed part of a metal crucifix, and died from intestinal hæmorrhage set up thereby. In this case the mystical significance of the act was placed beyond doubt by the patient's statement that she swallowed the crucifix to preserve her from the devil. All the patients were degenerates with hereditary taint.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Partial Cure of a Congenital Criminal [*Una semi-guargione di criminale-nato*]. (*Arch. di Psichiat.*, vol. xx, fasc. 4.) Lombroso.

This is a record of a case submitted for Lombroso's opinion by the Governor of Colorado, U.S.A. The criminal, Anthony Mooday, a boy æt. 11, murdered a man in order to steal his watch; when detected, he endeavoured to represent the occurrence as an accident. The paper gives a short autobiography of the criminal, some remarks on his behaviour in prison during the five years which have elapsed since the crime, and photographs (face and profile) of the boy at the time of the murder and at present. From these materials Lombroso feels justified in formulating the diagnosis and prognosis of the case, in accordance with the theories of the Italian school: the precocity of the crime, its motive and method, the facial and cranial characters of the murderer indicate that he is a "congenital criminal;" on the other hand, his good conduct in prison, and the improvement in his physiognomy which Lombroso discovers in the later photographs, show that he is capable of becoming an "honest man," but some peculiarities in his handwriting and a certain exaggerated vanity manifest in his autobiography prove that his recovery is imperfect—a characteristic example of Lombroso's methods.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Opium-smokers [*Fumeurs et fumeuses d'opium*]. (*Rev. de l'Hyp.*, April, 1900.) Bérillon.

Opium smoking seems to be on the increase in Paris; and, as the smoking is carried on in private apartments, those who reside in them become intoxicated by the fumes. This occurred in the case of a young woman who prepared her husband's pipes, so that a craving was induced. To obtain sleep she became dependent upon opium-smoking and the atmosphere created by another smoker. Very soon symptoms of intoxication appeared—hysterical convulsions, neurasthenic anxiety, paralysis of will, excessive timidity, etc. Treated by hypnotic suggestion, she gave up opium-smoking and got well. Bérillon observes incidentally that the cat of the house and a servant who lived in the room exhibited signs of craving after the opium-smoking had ceased there.

H. J. MACEVOY.

Physicians as Expert Witnesses. (*Med.-Legal Journ.*, vol. xvii, No. 1, 1899.) Wollman.

These are comments on those defects of physicians as expert witnesses which most strike a practising lawyer in America. The critic's remedy for the evil of partisan expert evidence appears to be a suggestion from