

tions induce Schaffer to think that the posterior median gyrus belongs rather to the association centres than to the sensory areas.

Cajal confirms the observations of Flechsig that the fibres of the association centres become mature later, and shows that these centres in the new-born child, as well as in some small mammalia (the mouse, the rabbit), have no exogenous terminal fibres; while, at the same time, the pyramidal cells and the nerve-cells of the zonal layer have a special appearance in the embryonic development. He largely agrees with Flechsig's views, and considers his anatomical and physiological dualism in the cortex as rational *a priori*, but he differs in regarding the association centres as wanting a specific terminal plexus, and not projection fibres. Cajal also holds, as against Flechsig, that the association centres occur not only in the anthropoid apes, but also in the smooth-brained animals.

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## 7. Sociology.

*Judicial Condemnations of Unrecognised Lunatics* [*Les aliénés devant les tribunaux*]. (*Rev. de Psychiat.*, March, 1902.) *Pactet*.

In this critical review the author, by reference to some of the recent literature on the subject, illustrates the frequency with which persons suffering from mental disease are committed to prison for criminal acts. A number of personal observations (referring chiefly to general paralytics) are quoted to the same effect. To prevent such miscarriages of justice the author suggests that all persons accused of criminal offences should be submitted to examination by an alienist; and he quotes the opinion of Dr. Paul Garnier—an exceptionally competent judge in the matter—as to the practicability of such a plan, at all events in large centres of population. The author also advocates the Belgian system of frequent examinations of prisoners by alienist inspectors, and recommends certain modifications in the French procedure of *expertise* in criminal cases.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*Criminal Asylums and Sections for the Insane in Prisons* [*Manicomii criminali e sezioni per folli nelle case di pena*]. (*Riv. mens. di Psychiat. forense*, Feb., 1902.) *Penta*.

In Italy, as in most other countries where such institutions exist, the admissions to criminal lunatic asylums have increased enormously in recent years. Thus, in spite of the opening of two new asylums of the same class, the original criminal asylum of Aversa, which in 1876 contained nineteen patients, in 1898 contained 209. This increase Penta ascribes, in part, to a real increase in lunacy, but much more to wider knowledge of the nature of insanity, and more particularly of the close connection between mental disease and crime. In face of this condition of things, the future of the criminal lunatic asylum becomes an urgent problem. Penta's opinion is that a multiplication of these institutions is undesirable. He thinks that they should be reserved for incorrigible degenerates who, with or without co-existing insanity of