

He concludes by mentioning a case of his own, in which both verbal and common-motor hallucinations, present in abundance, were ascribed by the patient to outside agencies, and believes that psycho-motor hallucinations are often thus exteriorised. A. W. WILCOX.

*Mirror Writing [La scrittura speculare]. (Il Manicomio, anno xix, No. 1.) Tomasini.*

In this paper, the author records rather summarily a clinical observation of mirror writing, and in connection therewith gives a short critical review of the literature of the subject.

The observation referred to a patient æt. 23, an hereditary degenerate suffering from cocainic insanity characterised chiefly by mental debility without much sensory disturbance. He was a person of superior education, and at the time of his illness was a student of law. His aptitude for mirror writing was discovered accidentally just before his discharge from the asylum; he was trying for amusement to write with the left hand, and, after some unsuccessful efforts to produce the letters in the ordinary manner, he suddenly and in an apparently involuntary way began to trace the lines well and rapidly in mirror writing. He was positive that he had never written in that fashion before. He was neither left-handed nor ambidextrous in respect of any fine movements. A *fac-simile* of his mirror writing given in the paper shows a clear facile hand differing somewhat from his ordinary caligraphy.

The author points out that the sudden manifestation of this aptitude in a right-handed adult not suffering from any functional incapacity of the right hand is rather rare. The phenomenon has been more often met with in hemiplegia with some degree of dementia, in left-handed persons and in children. To explain its occurrence in cases such as that which he records, the author supposes that Exner's graphic centre is represented in both hemispheres, but that normally the left centre is dominant; when for any reason—in this case the paralysing effect of the intoxication—the left hemisphere has lost its functional supremacy, the right graphic centre may come into play. In this way, if, as Abt has pointed out, there are no impeding conditions—*e. g.*, too vivid visual images of the letters to be traced,—mirror writing may result, since the abduction movements which it involves are the true homologues for the left hand of the motions of the right hand in ordinary writing.

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## 6. Pathology of Insanity.

*On the Alterations in the Nerve-fibres of the Spinal Cord and the Spinal Ganglia in some Forms of Chronic Insanity [Sulle alterazioni delle fibre nervose spinali e dei gangli intervertebrali in alcune forme di psicosi croniche]. (Ann. di Freniatr., Giugno, 1903.) Burzio.*

Dr. Burzio has made a laborious investigation of the state of the spinal cord in fifteen cases, which include imbecility, epileptic