

imbecility, and presenile disturbances the figures show that tuberculosis predominates. In paralysis and epilepsy death is chiefly assigned to fits, and in senile dementia to pneumonia.

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### 5. Treatment of Insanity.

*New Bromine Preparations for the Treatment of Epilepsy* [*Neuere Brompreparate in der Epilepsiebehandlung*]. (*Allegem. Zeits. f. Psychiat.*, vol. lxxvi, No. 1.) Haymann.

At the thirtieth meeting of the Sudwestdeutschen Irrenärzte in Karlsruhe on November 7th and 8th, 1908, Dr. Haymann, of Freiburg, spoke on the use of different preparations of bromine in the treatment of epilepsy. For years experiments have been made with the object of discovering a preparation to take the place of bromide of potassium, so as to avoid bromism. Many of the preparations tried were useless; they either contained too little bromine or were absurdly expensive. Experiments have been carried on in the Freiburg Psychiatric Clinique with the newer preparations—brominin, neuronal, bromglidine, and sabromin. As a result sabromin is recommended for the treatment of epilepsy in all cases where the bromides of potassium cannot be used, with the exception of temporary excited conditions.

Further details are to be published in the *Medizinischen Klinik*.

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### 6. Sociology.

*The Value of the School as a Preventive of Criminality* [*Sull'efficacia della scuola nella lotta contro la criminalità*]. (*Il Manicomio*, vol. xxv, Nos. 1 and 2, 1909.) Bianco and Gandolfi.

This paper is a critical review of the question whether education is preventive of crime. The authors point out that a great change has come over informed opinion since the time when Guizot coined his famous epigram that the opening of a school meant the closing of a prison. So far from this optimistic prediction having been realised, we now see that in almost every country the spread of education has been attended with an increase in the amount of criminality; and those who defend the obscurantist thesis are able to quote statistics showing, as do those of Joly for France, that the wealthier and the better educated classes have a higher rate of criminality than the poorer and more ignorant, or they can even claim that in some countries, as, for instance, in Portugal, the least criminal members of the community are those who are most illiterate. While admitting the increase in criminality, and admitting, too, that there has also been an upward movement in prostitution (as to this the statistical evidence is not clearly indicated), in suicide, and in insanity, the authors dispute the conclusion that this is to be attributed to the coincident spread of popular education, and they argue that the facts are to be explained with more probability when