

rarely presents that spontaneous excitement by which some types of confusion seem to merge into true mania ; so that the term "amentia," in Meynert's sense, seems appropriate for it. A. W. WILCOX.

On Insanity after Acute and Chronic Infectious Diseases [Über psychosen nach akuten und chronischen infektionskrankheiten]. (Allgem. Zeitschr. f. Psychiat., H. i, 1904, p. 185.) Siemerling.

Professor Siemerling, at the Annual Meeting of the Psychiatric Association at Kiel, read a paper on this subject. He observes that there is no infectious disease in the course of which mental derangement may not supervene. Typhoid fever appears to head the list as a cause of insanity. After an epidemic of this malady in Königsberg out of 176 patients there were eight cases of mental derangement—4.5 per cent. After this Siemerling ranks acute articular rheumatism and influenza. Insanity also sometimes follows attacks of pneumonia, pleurisy, malarial fever, small-pox, measles, scarlatina, and diphtheria, erysipelas, phthisis, whooping-cough, mumps, cholera, dysentery, lepra, hydrophobia, gonorrhoea, ergotism, and pellagra. The last two intoxications, which have been so ably studied by Tuczek, may be here left out of consideration. The delirium attending fevers generally passes away with convalescence. In a few cases, the mental affection continues under the form of neurasthenia or acute insanity with hallucinations (amentia), katatonia, paranoia, mania, or melancholia. There are no characteristic symptoms to distinguish insanity following infectious diseases from other forms. It is in the decline of the febrile action or in the period of convalescence that we most frequently meet with cases of insanity. The asthenic type is the commonest, with incoherency and dreamy confused mental states, shifting hallucinations, and illusions, wandering delusions, and emotional weakness. Sometimes stupor and excitement succeed one another. Siemerling has observed in children permanent weakness of mind down to idiocy following upon the exanthemata, erysipelas, diphtheria, and parotitis epidemica, influenza, and whooping-cough, sometimes taking a stuporose form, sometimes that of acute dementia. Simple mania and melancholia are rare with children. Siemerling remarks that we can no more speak of a tubercular insanity than of a typhous insanity ; but it sometimes happens that in the course of phthisis and in the deepest stages of inanition the mental derangement entirely disappears. It also occurs, though rarely, that after typhus, influenza, or erysipelas the symptoms of insanity improve or there is a complete recovery. This has given hopes of effecting a cure through infection, as with the cocci of erysipelas or some other communicated disease.

As regards prognosis, insanity following infection is generally of short duration, though in a few cases it does last from several months to years. Siemerling has found those following pneumonia the most persistent.

The prognosis is bad in severe delirium, in typhoid and acute articular rheumatism (typho-mania, cerebro-rheumatismus), with a high temperature (from 41° to 44° C.) when death may follow in a few hours. This happens in half the cases. Nothing special in the treatment is

recommended by Siemerling save that under some circumstances he recommends lumbar punctures when there are symptoms of meningitis.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

Criminality in Sardinian Lunatics [La delinquenza negli alienati sardi].
(*Arch. di Psichiat.*, vol. xxv, fasc. i—ii, 1904.) Sanna-Salaris.

The author analyses 62 cases—55 men and 7 women—of lunatics who had committed criminal offences and were sent for observation to his asylum.

He draws the following conclusions from his study :

1. Though it is true that the same form of delinquency is common to the different varieties of insanity, it is none the less a fact that the grave offences are more generally committed by two special categories of lunatics—epileptics and paranoiacs.

2. As the race exercises a conspicuous influence in determining the nature of the delinquency and the criminal proclivity, the crimes committed by the insane are found to resemble in character those of the sane population to which the insane criminals belong : criminal tendencies are most marked in the insane in districts where sane crime is most frequent.

3. A large number of the individuals examined presented somatic stigmata of degenerescence, the minimum being among the paranoiacs, the maximum among the epileptics and the imbeciles.

4. Among the patients, delirious ideas, either paranoiac or merely the exaggeration of superstition, were very frequent, and, alone or with other influences, were one of the chief motives of crime.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

The criminality of the insane [Della criminalità nei pazzi]. (*Il Manicomio*, anno xix, No. 3, 1903.) Angioletta.

The author discusses the relation between insanity and crime, basing his views on the study of a series of criminal lunatics in the Nocera asylum. The number of such cases admitted in ten years was 115, which, compared with the total male receptions in the same period, gave a proportion of 3.99 per cent. The number actually under treatment is 81, being 9.96 per cent. of the daily average of male patients. These proportions, the author points out, though high, when it is borne in mind how the presence of such cases must interfere with the order and discipline of a general asylum, are extremely low considering the current ideas of the criminal tendencies of the insane.

Of the 115 cases 68 were lunatics who had committed crimes, and 47 were criminals who had become insane in prison.

Of the former category 33, or nearly half, were epileptics in the wide sense of the Italian school ; 15 others were paranoiacs ; 13 moral idiots ; while recurrent mania and chronic mania accounted for two each, and hebephrenia, lypomania and hallucinatory delirium for one each. Thus criminal tendencies were chiefly associated with the insanities arising on a basis of degenerescence, and were hardly found at all in the pure psychoneuroses.

Moreover, except in cases of paranoia, there is very rarely any