

Näcke never heard, but that fails to affect the question of the desirability of attempting to place the risks as clearly and definitely as possible before the candidate for matrimony. Näcke admits that the estimate must be rough and largely subjective. The suggestion seems, however, to deserve consideration.

The question of the oft-alleged "degeneracy" of many modern nations, especially those of "Latin" race, touched on in this paper, is further discussed by Näcke in another paper, "Zür Angeblichen Entartung der Romanischen Völker, speziell Frankreichs" (*Archiv für Rassen-und Gesellschafts-Biologie*, May-June, 1906), and he argues that there are no true indications that the French or any other Latin nation shows signs of such degeneracy. HAVELOCK ELLIS.

A Note on the Influence Exercised on the Offspring by Sexual Incontinence during Pregnancy [*Note sur l'influence de l'incontinence sexuelle pendant la gestation sur la descendance*]. (*Arch. de Neurol.*, vol. xix, No. 112, April, 1905.) FÉRÉ.

In this paper Féré describes a case of epilepsy in a child æt. 8, interesting chiefly because of the apparent origin of the neurosis. The boy, who presented several teratological stigmata, was the eldest son of healthy parents. After his birth his mother had three stillborn children and then a miscarriage. Syphilis could be absolutely excluded, and careful inquiry failed to show any other degenerative taint in either of the parent stocks. It was ascertained, however, that the parents, who were ordinarily very abstemious in their sexual pleasures, through fear of a large family, were in the habit of extremely free indulgence when pregnancy was established. In the absence, therefore, of all other probable causes, Féré attributes the degeneracy in the offspring to this agency, and points out in this connection that the repulsion which some pregnant women feel towards their husbands—a repulsion which is paralleled in the case of the lower animals—is perhaps to be looked on as a defensive instinct. W. C. SULLIVAN.

3. Clinical Neurology and Psychiatry.

Sexual Excitement in the Psychopathies with Anxiety [*De l'excitation sexuelle dans les psychopathies anxieuses*]. *Arch. de Neurol.*, Feb., 1905.) CULLERRE.

While various disorders in the circulatory, respiratory, and other functions have been described among the physical symptoms accompanying the syndrome of anxiety (*angoisse*) in the insane, the occurrence of sexual excitement has not hitherto been mentioned, though it has been noted in connection with that condition in neurasthenics and in cases of simple obsession. In the present paper Dr. Cullerre repairs this omission by recording seven cases in which he has observed the association of the two phenomena. The cases, selected as specially representative, belong to three categories: (1) psychoses with depression arising on a basis of neurasthenia; (2) agitated melancholia (*aliénés gémissieurs*); and (3) the polymorphic insanity of the degenerate.

In the first observation, which is particularly instructive, the patient, a woman æt. 50, with an insane heredity, and of alcoholic habits, developed, soon after the menopause, melancholic symptoms, with crises of panphobic terror. With or in lieu of these latter crises she had also a whole series of cœnæsthetic crises—pseudo-angina, asthma, boulimia, and finally paroxysms of painful and voluptuous excitement in the genital organs.

In the second observation, the patient, a woman æt. 26, hysterical and with a neuropathic heredity, presented symptoms of great emotional depression with ideas of damnation; this condition was frequently marked by crises of melancholic furor, with suicidal and homicidal impulses. In her calmer intervals she complained that she had periods of extreme sexual excitement and desire. It could not be ascertained in what relationship these latter symptoms stood to the melancholic crises, but there was reason to think that they were rather equivalents than results.

In the third and fourth observations, referring to cases of agitated melancholia, the most remarkable features were the relatively long duration of the symptoms of genital excitement, and its more or less regular increase with the intensity of the panphobic state.

The fifth case recorded is that of a hereditary degenerate presenting symptoms of incoherent religious delirium on a melancholic basis. During the five years the case was under observation it was marked by phases of stupor, crises of spasmodic laughter, periods of intense melancholia with suicidal impulses, and lastly crises of the wildest sexual excitement. In this patient, as in the two remaining observations, which also referred to the *folie des dégénérés*, there was a close parallelism between the intensity of the mental anxiety and the genital symptoms.

Commenting briefly on the cases as a whole, the author points out that they appear to indicate that the two conditions—anxiety and genital excitement—depend on the same mechanism. This mechanism, he suggests—while rather deprecating such speculations—may perhaps be found in the overaction of visceral centres in the optic thalami set free by the inhibited state of the higher centres accompanying the acme of the anxious paroxysm.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

On the Clinical History, Diagnosis, and Prognosis of Amentia [Zur Klinik, Diagnose, und Prognose der Amentia]. (Monatss. f. Psychiat. u. Neurol, May and June, 1906.) Strohmayer.

Dr. Wilhelm Strohmayer tells us that amentia has in Germany gained a recognised significance to denote a form of insanity which has previously gone under the names of acute delusion, acute confusional, or insanity with hallucinations (*akuter Wahnsinn, akute halluzinatorische Verwirrtheit, akutes halluzinatorisches Irresein*). This form comprises the acute insanities which have for their main symptom mental confusion, the result of dissociation or incoherency of representation. The most marked manifestation of this derangement may be described as a dreamy bewilderment of consciousness. Around this mental confusion are grouped various disorders of perception, changing illusions, hallucina-