

more interesting of the asylums for the insane, criminal and otherwise, in Italy.

Two events especially have interested alienists in 1905—the transformation of the ancient society “Società Freniatica Italiana,” and the nomination of Professor Bianchi, professor of psychiatry at the University of Naples and director of the asylum at Naples, to the post of Minister of Public Instruction. Professor Bianchi has, during the short time he has been minister, complained of the want of the scientific spirit in the world of education. He has endeavoured to enlarge the teaching of experimental psychology at the universities, but the Commission of Concours has limited as much as possible the efforts of Professor Bianchi, although his idea had the support on the Commission of psychologists of such eminence as Professors Morselli and Tanzi.

The saddest event has been the death of Professor Ezio Sciamanna, of Rome, which occurred in May last, a few days after the Congress of Psychology. He was a neurologist of great merit and a conscientious worker. At the Congress he fought against the doctrines of Flechsig and Bianchi relative to the functions of the prefrontal lobes. His place at the University of Rome has been taken by Professor A. Tamburini, professor of psychiatry at the University of Modena and director of the asylum of Reggio Emilia, an asylum which has the reputation of being the premier institute of psychiatry in Italy. The work done at this asylum was published in the *Rivista sperimentale di Freniatria*, which was founded by Professor Tamburini.

To the asylum of Reggio Emilia, the departure of Professor Tamburini will be a great shock, and will be felt throughout the psychiatric world of Italy, for Reggio Emilia has been latterly, so to speak, the nursery of the directors of asylums and professors of psychiatry at the Universities. Professor Tamburini is sure to vastly improve the psychiatric clinic of Rome, the work of which up to now has been performed under unenviable conditions, and it should be a matter for rejoicing that he goes to establish a more perfect system, which will be fruitful for the progress of science and the wellbeing of the insane.

SPAIN.

By Dr. W. COROLEU.

No year has been so poor in phrenopathic work in Spain as 1905. The Vasco-Navarro Asylum in the Nordish Provinces, at Pamplona, was opened in January. There is also a question of building one at Majorca, in Palma, for the Balearic inhabitants. The want of more suitable institutions for transitory and incipient cases continues to be felt.

The *Don Quixote* centenary—whether Cervantes wrote it or not in 1605—has deluged us with a flood of publications on mental pathology. A curious and widely-read article of Dr. Rz. Morini on the subject in the *Phrenopathical Review* has created the greatest interest. The Torrey-Alexander Mission has created a certain amount of interest in the medical world, and resulted in an article in the *Review* above referred to.

Our Universities do not encourage psychiatry, but a distinguished savant and teacher, Dr. Maestre, has alluded to the subject in his *Positive Psychology Essay*. In Barcelona, the forensic medicine students have had classes in the St. Baudilius Lunatic Asylum. Dr. Mata's great work on that science has been reproduced by Lozano Caparros, with valuable additions in the parts appertaining to insanity. It is much to be deplored that neither lawyers nor physicians encourage regular instruction in mental disorders by courses of lectures.

It is pleasing to record that in St. Baudilius a modern installation for radio- and photo-electrotherapy has been provided. Dr. Cueto has had some brilliant results in the surgical treatment of nervous diseases.

Phrenopathic statistics for all Spain have not yet been published, although the material required has been collected.

In a prosecution of anarchists in Barcelona a most entertaining case of so-called simulation occurred. The experts disagreed as to the mental state of the subject, a certain Picoret. The murder of Cardinal Casañas was not the outcome of insanity, and the murderer poisoned himself to escape the law, as did Mr. Whitaker Wright.

No new journal devoted to our specialty has appeared this year. The few that exist in Spain come from Barcelona. There is no psychiatric or neurological association; this is the more grievous as all other specialties have their own associations, some of them being very prosperous. It is to be hoped that better years are in store for psychiatry in this country.

Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Anthropology.

Materials for the Physical Anthropology of the Eastern European Jews.
(*Annals New York Acad. Sci.*, May, 1905.) *Fishberg, Maurice.*

Dr. Fishberg has already published important studies of the cephalic index and the pigmentation of the Jews. The more elaborate monograph which he now presents is probably the most valuable contribution yet made to the elucidation of an interesting but extremely difficult subject. The Jews of one country differ from the Jews of another country; to what is the difference due? Is it to be accounted for by an original diversity, or by the influence of environment, or by mixture with the peoples among whom they live? Dr. Fishberg is admirably placed for such an investigation. In New York he is able to study the immigrant Jews of many countries and to compare them with non-Jewish immigrants from the same country as well as with Jews long settled in America. In this way he has measured over 1500 Jews, while he also takes into consideration all previous measurements. The results are set forth in accordance with modern statistical methods. His study covers stature, girth of chest, head measurements and nose measurements, the facial index, and pigmentation. The average stature of Jews is