

the reaction gives constant enough findings in syphilis with active manifestations, primary or secondary. In progressive paralysis the findings are not reliable, and are inconstant in the same individual.

HAMILTON C. MARR.

4. Pathology of Insanity.

Six Cases of Traumatic Encephalitis [Six Cas d'encéphalite traumatique].
(*Bull. Soc. Clin. Med. Ment.*, Nov., 1909.) Marie and Davidienkow.

This paper records the pathological findings in six cases of insanity following head injury. In four of the cases, the type of insanity was general paralysis, in one senile dementia, and in the other dementia præcox. In all, the site of injury was in the neighbourhood of the right temporal lobe, and the authors point out that this region is one very often injured, being exposed and fragile. The general paralysis followed the trauma at intervals varying from seven to thirteen years. In three of the paralytics there was a history of syphilis, and the fourth gave the Wassermann reaction. While the diffuse lesions were those characteristic of the dementia or paralysis, as the case might be, the local lesions were almost identical in all. They were superficial erosions, or excavations, whose bases and edges were formed of neuroglial scar-tissue. They are probably due to hæmorrhages, with necrosis of the superficial layers of the cortex, and the absence of blood-pigment in the cicatricial tissue is due to the fact that the pigment is completely absorbed after some years. Koppen has insisted on the exclusively traumatic origin of such lesions. According to him, whenever we find small cavities or superficial cicatrices (especially if these are on the bases of the hemispheres, or on the upper surface of the temporal lobes), we can be sure that we are dealing with lesions of traumatic origin. The paper is illustrated with twelve figures.

W. STARKEY.

Causes of Death and Anatomico-Pathological Findings in the Insane [Über die Todesursachen und andere pathologisch-anatomische Befunde bei Geisteskranken]. (*Allgem. Zeits. f. Psychiat.*, vol. lxvi, No. 34.)
Ganter, R.

This article is based on the results of examination of 1017 autopsies (513 males and 504 females) which were investigated from 1880 to 1904. The cases are grouped clinically as follows: General paralysis, 299 (224 males, 75 females); dementia præcox, 233 (98 males, 135 females); presenile disturbances, 77 (18 males, 59 females); senile dementia, 204 (75 males, 129 females); imbecility, 50 (20 males, 30 females); epilepsy, 87 (48 males, 39 females); recurrent insanity, 20 (2 males, 18 females); trauma 15 (13 males, 2 females); alcoholic insanity, 11 males; puerperal insanity, 12 females; tumour, febrile conditions, etc., 9 (4 males, 5 females).

The causes of death are set forth in tables showing the percentage of the different causes in each of the several mental conditions. Most of the patients died of diseases of the lungs (24.4 per cent.). Tuberculosis is next in frequency (19.8 per cent.). In dementia præcox (45 per cent.)

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.

HAMILTON C. MARR.

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*.

HAMILTON C. MARR.

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