

other societies. All these things occupy people's minds and give vent to their energies. "In England Caserio would perhaps have found a place in the ranks of the Salvation Army, which would have furnished food for his fanaticism, and for his need of action."

But these arguments appear to us mutually destructive: for on the one hand we venture to doubt the power of the Salvation Army to suppress a bread riot should such a thing again unhappily break out in England; and on the other it would appear that the classes who furnish the anarchists are by no means the most needy, or those who suffer most from distress.

Both as a pioneer in science and as a reformer in social affairs Lombroso appears to have encountered difficulties which it may console him to know are not peculiar to Latin races. His article in *Le Revue des Revues* concludes thus:—"As for the imbecile notion of some Latin nations, who, instead of disinfecting the surroundings, think it better to suppress the physicians when they suggest remedies, and the writers when they labour for the improvement of social conditions, it could not spring up except among classes and peoples unworthy to live in our century."

(¹) "Luccheni giudicato dal punto di vista antropologico-psichiatric:" see also "Le Crime de Luccheni," by the same author, in *Revue des Revues*, No. 21, 1898.
—(²) See *Gli Anarchisti*.

The Bedborough Case.

We regret that Mr. Havelock Ellis's work on *Sexual Inversion* should have been among the books which Mr. George Bedborough pleaded guilty to having sold, when he was charged with the sale of obscene literature at the Old Bailey on October 31st. Mr. Ellis's well-known reputation as a criminal anthropologist will be a sufficient guarantee of his motives in writing the work in question, but it is certainly most unfortunate that a man who must plead guilty of the sale of an indecent lecture and an indecent journal should have the opportunity of claiming a scientific study as part of his peccant matter.

In dealing with the German original of this work, and with the kindred work of Raffalovich in this Journal a year and a

half ago, we pointed out the danger of such works getting into improper hands, and being used for other purposes than those of scientific research (see vol. xliii, p. 570). It is now evident enough that our fear is justified, and we trust that observers in the field of sexual depravity will bear in mind the lessons of the Bedborough case. The perpetual repetition of the theory of Ulrich, that some people are naturally possessed of a perverse sexual feeling, is tiresome. We are never favoured with an atom of proof, and writers seem to imagine that they advance their arguments by heaping up unsavoury details—details which, however harmless they may seem to us who are accustomed to the vagaries of insane passion, will, if they fall into the hands of the vulgar, be treated as a mere bundle of very dirty stories, and as such are liable to become part of the stock-in-trade of the pornographic bookseller and his wretched *clientèle*. We are sorry for Mr. Ellis, especially as he was unable to defend himself, the charge being only against the vendor of various works; but we are of opinion that he should have exercised more care with regard to the mode of production and sale of his volume in its English form. If it is found impossible to avoid the introduction of monographs on such subjects into the secret drawer of the dealer in indecent books, then in our opinion the production of these monographs should cease, as they are likely to do more harm to their readers among the general public, and to their authors, than will be compensated by the instruction they give to those who read them with merely scientific desire for information, or who have already had more than enough of detailed cases.

Pathological Laboratories.

The last Report of the Pathologist to the London County Asylums gives evidence of the high quality of the work in progress at the Asylums Laboratory. Without attempting a review of the Report, we may here allude to the chief topics with which it is concerned, and these are—The occurrence of acute fatty degeneration in certain muscles in general paralysis of the insane; the action of cholin—a product of degeneration of brain tissue, which exists in the cerebro-spinal fluid of