

features described by Klippel under the name of "vaso-paralytic liver" been found. The assemblage of symptoms described as vaso-paralytic are:

(a) A greyish-brown liver due to dilatation and weakness of the left ventricle.

(b) Red atrophy.

(c) Disseminated plaques of red atrophy.

(d) Fatty degeneration.

(e) Diffuse sclerosis of embryonal type without marked contraction.

(4) There is no sensible difference in the viscera of paralytics dying while in a good state of general nutrition, and those dying of cachexia with more or less extensive bedsores. Meta-syphilitic intoxication, or whatever state constitutes the fundamental causation of general paralysis, appears to be sufficient to produce the alterations described.

(5) The plasma-cells are produced from the fixed cells of the connective tissue. Plasma-cells as described by Unna and Marschalko are of hæmatogenous origin, and may be classed with other elements separated by many morphological characters. The plasma-cells of Hodara are pseudo-plasma-cells, being probably mononuclear leucocytes greatly modified in their staining reactions.

HAMILTON C. MARR.

Plasma-Cells and the Reactive Phenomena in Cerebral Cysticercus [*Sulle Plasmacellule e sui Fenomeni Reattivi nella Cisticercosi Cerebrale*]. (*Riv. di Patol. Nerv. e Ment.*, vol. xiv, fasc. viii.) Papadia, G.

As a result of a parasite in the brain a stimulus resembling a toxic influence is produced. The complexity of the reactive phenomena is clearly differentiated from the structure of the normal histological elements, and has specific characters. There is an accumulation of leucocytes with polymorphic nuclei, and a large number of giant cells in immediate contact with the parasitic membrane. The connective tissue is markedly increased, and forms the two internal strata of the adventitial cyst. In the external stratum, plasma-cells, eosinophile leucocytes, and lymphocytes exist as perfectly distinct elements. Transitional forms of cells are noted between plasma-cells and the special elements of the connective tissue. These have a basophilic reaction. The conclusions the author reaches are that the plasma-cell is not of hæmatogenous origin, and the evidence is wholly favourable to an origin from connective tissue.

HAMILTON C. MARR.

5. Sociology.

The Control of the Insane with Criminal Tendencies [*Die Unterbringung der Geisteskranken mit verbrecherischen Neigungen*]. (*Psych.-Neur. Wochenschr.*, April 9th and 16th, 1910.) Nitsche, P.

In this paper, read before the Dresden Forensisch-Psychiatrische Vereinigung last March, the author discusses the rather hackneyed question of the method of dealing with dangerously criminal lunatics. The arguments on the matter are too familiar to need re-statement, but some points brought out by the author may be of interest as showing

the trend of ideas on the question in Germany. He deals in some detail with the system of lunatic wings attached to prisons, a system which exists in Prussia, Wurtemberg, Saxony, and Baden. This system he approves of so long as the special wings are used only for the temporary detention of offenders who have shown signs of insanity while undergoing the ordinary penal discipline. It appears, however, that a wider extension has been given to this method at Waldheim, where the lunatic block connected with the penal establishment serves for the treatment during indefinite periods not only of criminals who have become insane and of insane persons who have committed crimes, but also of lunatics who have shown dangerously violent tendencies in other asylums. It is suggested that this arrangement has not worked very satisfactorily at Waldheim, the explanation apparently being that the medical administration of the lunatic wing is unduly influenced by the lay authority of the prison. On this account the author is opposed to having such institutions used for the prolonged detention of insane patients of any class so long as the prisons with which they are connected are not under medical control and government; and this view appears to have commanded the support of the alienists who took part in the discussion. Regarding the other possible plans for meeting the difficulty created by this class of insane patient, the author very reasonably concludes that the choice between special criminal asylums and special blocks in ordinary asylums must be decided by the conditions in each locality. The former plan will be suitable in districts with a large industrial population, while the special blocks will be found sufficient in rural populations. Whatever system is adopted, it is urged that the criterion for bringing patients under these special means of control should be their distinctly dangerous disposition, and that no regard should be had to the pedantic consideration whether they had or had not been legally labelled as criminals.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Sexual Offences and Diminished Responsibility [*Sexual delikt und verminderte Zurechnungs fähigkeit*] (*Psych.-neur. Wochensch.*, December 25th, 1909.) Näcke, P.

In an earlier number of the same periodical appeared a paper by Fischer on "Responsibility in Incipient or Doubtful Mental Disorder," in which sexual offences (among others) were considered. Fischer maintained that if a person of sound mind was affected with an abnormally powerful libido sexualis and committed an offence, his increased libido could not be pleaded as a ground for a diminution of the legal penalty incurred, "inasmuch as in a person of sound mind no mental disorder can be induced by an increased libido." Näcke accepts the latter statement as true, but disputes the former. He considers that inasmuch as *any* strong emotion may diminish or completely overpower self-control, the same is true of the sexual impulse. Hence in a sane person diminished responsibility may be pleaded on the ground of abnormally powerful libido sexualis. In the paper already quoted Fischer had written, "Experience teaches us that in persons whose sexual desires are directed to abnormal ends, libido is no more powerful than it is in those whose sexual desires are normally directed. Even if in such cases libido was greater, the inhibiting influences offered by