

*The Bed Treatment of Chronic Insane Patients [Ueber die Bettbehandlung bei chronischen Psychosen]. (Allgem. Zeits. für Psychiat., Band lix, Heft 1.) Würth, A.*

The author observes that the treatment of acute cases of insanity by confinement to bed has made good progress, in spite of criticism, during the last ten years.

Dr. Würth determined to try this method upon chronic excited patients. At the end of the first quarter he had a hundred patients under treatment. He considers the result encouraging. He found that out of sixty-three patients so treated, thirty lost weight, twenty-eight gained, and five remained as they were. He found that excited patients became quieter under this treatment, and that acts of violence or the desire to tear and destroy were much lessened, so that restraint, isolation, or narcotics were not so much called for.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

### 7. Sociology.

*Criminal Sociology [La Sociologie criminelle]. (Rev. de l'Hyp., May and June, 1902.) Niceforo.*

In this lecture, delivered before the University of Lausanne, the author defines the issues between the old classic school of penology and the modern scientific spirit.

It is the eternal opposition of the metaphysical and the positivist methods. "The classic school has created the modern penal codes; it has restricted itself to building abstract theories of crime. The positivist school has created criminal sociology; it has sought to study the criminal, the criminal environment, the prison, and, above all, it has sought for practical methods of prevention." The classic school, founded on the doctrine of free will, had taken form before the positivist method had revolutionised the natural sciences, and in its subsequent evolution it had remained voluntarily ignorant of the new conception of crime which has necessarily followed from the progress of experimental psychology and psychiatry. The modern school, on the contrary, takes its origin from these sciences; it brings to the study of the criminal the experimental method; it sees in crime, as in every other human act, not the expression of free will, but the resultant of the organic constitution of the individual and of his social and physical environment; and, studying that organic constitution, it finds in the criminal the characters of degeneracy. So envisaged, the scope of criminal sociology may be outlined as follows:

#### 1. Causes of crime.

Physical causes.—Sociogeography: relations of the criminal to climate, latitude, altitude, soil, etc.

Individual causes.—(a) Criminal anthropology: study of the cranial, skeletal, visceral, etc., characters of criminals; (b) criminal psychology: study of the emotions and intelligence in criminals; the physiological psychology of the criminal.

Social causes.—Criminal statistics: study by the statistical method of the relations between the social *milieu* and the criminal.

2. Criterion and means of repression.

(a) Criterion and means of repression: study of responsibility, of the idea of crime, and of penal action.

(b) Means of repression: study of the different systems (elimination and correction) applied by the law to criminals.

3. Criminal polity.

(a) Preventive: the prophylaxis of crime.

(b) Repressive: study of the treatment of the criminal in the institutions to which the repressive law consigns him. W. C. SULLIVAN.

*Criminal Suggestion in a Paretic Alcoholic* [*Suggestione criminale in alcoolista paresico*]. (*Arch. di Psichiat.*, vol. xxiii, fasc. 4, 5, 1902.) Lombroso.

This is the report of a case of great medico-legal interest.

The body of a murdered man was discovered in a well adjoining a cabin belonging to two brothers Fissore, and by a complete chain of circumstantial evidence the crime was brought home beyond doubt to the elder of the brothers, and a reasonable probability of the other's complicity was established. At the trial the elder Fissore, who up to this had denied the charge, confessed that he was guilty, but asserted that his brother was innocent, and named as his real accomplices in the murder two other individuals, alleging further that the crime was undertaken at the instigation of a prostitute. These persons were accordingly arrested; the woman and one of the men accused, who had hitherto had an excellent character, denied absolutely any knowledge of the affair, but the third prisoner, an individual named Martinengo, after for a time protesting his innocence, at the fourth examination, after a month's detention in prison, admitted that he was guilty, corroborated Fissore's evidence, and added details to it. On fuller investigation, however, it turned out that Fissore's story was a tissue of lies. A conclusive alibi was proved in regard to the three individuals whom he accused, and in Martinengo's case it was further shown that at the time of the crime of which he acknowledged himself guilty he was actually laid up with neuritis and an injury to the foot. Eventually any remaining doubt was cleared up by the confession of the younger Fissore. The self-accusation of Martinengo was, therefore, clearly the result of suggestion; the reiterated assertions of Fissore, the questions of the *juge d'instruction* and of the police, operating on his feeble brain, created the belief in his own guilt, and this idea he elaborated with that tendency to pathological lying which is usual in the weak-minded. Martinengo was, in fact, a chronic alcoholic with symptoms—pupillary inequality, slow and tremulous speech, modified reflexes, etc.—of organic brain changes. He was very demented, with a tendency to optimism. His evidence, though apparently accepted for a time by the judicial authorities, gave ample proof, in its variations and inconsistencies, of his morbid mental state.

This curious incident of false testimony as a result of suggestion is the chief interest of the case; but some other points are also worthy of