

the katatonic form of dementia præcox, with illustrative plates, are given, and bring out these points very well.

Séglas shares Kraepelin's view that the symptoms of katatonia are psychical in origin, as opposed to Kahlbaum, who looked upon them as simple muscular spasms. An important characteristic is that they are automatic, independent of the consciousness of the patient, unrelated to delusional ideas or hallucinations; but, adds Séglas, such phenomena of automatism can only be corollaries. The primary condition, which constitutes the substratum, is the permanent or temporary (and partial or generalised) insufficiency of cohesion between the various elements which constitute the aggregate personality; it is the defect of unity, of synthesis, of voluntary activity; it is *abulia*. In conclusion he shows that negativism and stereotypy, etc., are quite compatible with the existence of abulia, and refers briefly to the psychopathology of dementia præcox—a subject carefully treated by Masselon (*Thèse de Paris*, 1902).  
H. J. MACEVOY.

*On the Fundamental Nature of the Delusional Ideas of the Insane.*  
(*Journ. of Ment. Path.*, vol. ii, No. 3, April, 1902.) Ferrari.

The author holds that a sharp distinction is to be drawn between "delirious ideas of the insane proper and those caused by intoxications or infections." In the latter the impure blood circulating in the brain "gives rise to a number of mental images and ideas which, while spurring on one another, are unsystematised," while "in the insane the ideas always have an intimate bearing on the personality itself." A short summary of the psychic symptoms in a number of the commoner drug-intoxications is given in support of this view. The argument appears to imply, though this is not made quite clear in the translation, a rather arbitrary denial of the influence of the organic personality in the toxic deliria.  
W. C. SULLIVAN.

## 5. Sociology.

*Medico-legal Report on Vidal, the Murderer* [*Vidal, le Tueur de Femmes: Rapport*]. (*Arch. d'Anthropol. crim.*, Nov. 15th, 1902.)  
Lacassagne, Royer, Rebatel.

Nearly the whole of this number of the *Archives* is occupied with an elaborate report on Vidal, the result of observations carried on in the prison at Lyons during six months. So careful and scientific a report must lead every English reader to view with regret the casual and summary methods, carried on with mediæval secrecy, which alone are permitted in our own country.

Vidal was born at Vals in 1867, the only survivor of four children. His father died young, apparently of tuberculosis, of which also many of his family died. His mother, though herself healthy, was the daughter of an epileptic, whose sisters were also epileptic. An elder brother of Vidal, who died before him, was of unbalanced temperament,