

which is unknown to us; further, heredity in the narrow and wider sense; these prepare the ground which is further acted on by syphilis, so that through the influence of several exciting causes, especially emotional disturbance, the disease is brought out. The congenital brain constitution seems to be the condition *sine quâ non*.

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*On the Infective Origin of Acute Delirium* [*Sulla origine infettiva del delirio acuto*]. (*Ann. di Nervol.*, fasc. I—II, 1899.) *Bianchi and Piccinino*.

This is the third communication which the authors have made on this subject since 1893. In the present paper, two more cases of very acute fatal delirium with the bacteriological examinations are given. The first case was admitted on February 26th, 1896: the symptoms were those of acute delirious mania with marked motor excitement and with hallucinations; on February 29th temperature 39.2°, respirations 44, pulse 136, arhythmic, tossing the head, tremors of the lips so that her words could not be made out, tongue dry and furred, breath smelt of acetone; sensibility was much impaired; pupils small and fixed; abdomen tumid, meteoric. About one gramme of blood was withdrawn from the arm for the cultures. The temperature rose subsequently to 40.2°, and she gradually collapsed and died on March 4th. The second case was admitted on October 1st, 1898. There was intense motor excitement, marked incoherence in speech; rectal temperature 37°; pulse small, feeble, and rapid; abdomen tumid. She became gradually unconscious, pupils rigid, breath smelt of acetone, tremors of the muscles, collapse, and death occurred on October 3rd. The post-mortem examination showed marked post-mortem rigidity. The cerebral meninges were slightly anæmic—small collections of subarachnoid fluid, grey matter pale rose-colour, white somewhat soft, heart normal, lungs slight hypostasis, spleen softened; other organs were practically normal. Cultures were made from the blood and also from the subarachnoid fluid. They showed a bacillus either isolated or in groups of two or three, or united in chains. They stain by all aniline dyes and by Gram's method, but the best result is by Ziehl's fluid: they do not spore. This is the organism they described in their previous papers. Injections from these cultures proved fatal to rabbits, an enormous infiltration of the bacilli occurring in the meninges. The authors state that "the whole morbid picture, the rapidly fatal course of the disease, the presence in the blood of large numbers of bacilli, the strong virulence of the cultures, and the infiltration by the bacilli of the meninges in animals dead from inoculation, constitute an accumulation of facts of great value in the genesis and pathology of acute delirium." J. R. GILMOUR.

*On the Elimination of the Ethereal Sulphates by the Urine in Epilepsy and in Sitiophobia* [*Sulla eliminazione degli eteri solforici per le urine negli epilettici e nei sitofobi*]. (*Ann. di Nervol.*, fasc. I—II, 1899.) *Galante and Savini*.

The ethereal sulphates in the urine (compounds of sulphuric acid with organic radicals, of which the best known are indol, skatol, and