

with occasional *raptus*, swallowed part of a metal crucifix, and died from intestinal hæmorrhage set up thereby. In this case the mystical significance of the act was placed beyond doubt by the patient's statement that she swallowed the crucifix to preserve her from the devil. All the patients were degenerates with hereditary taint.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Partial Cure of a Congenital Criminal [*Una semi-guargione di criminale-nato*]. (*Arch. di Psichiat.*, vol. xx, fasc. 4.) Lombroso.

This is a record of a case submitted for Lombroso's opinion by the Governor of Colorado, U.S.A. The criminal, Anthony Mooday, a boy æt. 11, murdered a man in order to steal his watch; when detected, he endeavoured to represent the occurrence as an accident. The paper gives a short autobiography of the criminal, some remarks on his behaviour in prison during the five years which have elapsed since the crime, and photographs (face and profile) of the boy at the time of the murder and at present. From these materials Lombroso feels justified in formulating the diagnosis and prognosis of the case, in accordance with the theories of the Italian school: the precocity of the crime, its motive and method, the facial and cranial characters of the murderer indicate that he is a "congenital criminal;" on the other hand, his good conduct in prison, and the improvement in his physiognomy which Lombroso discovers in the later photographs, show that he is capable of becoming an "honest man," but some peculiarities in his handwriting and a certain exaggerated vanity manifest in his autobiography prove that his recovery is imperfect—a characteristic example of Lombroso's methods.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Opium-smokers [*Fumeurs et fumeuses d'opium*]. (*Rev. de l'Hyp.*, April, 1900.) Bérillon.

Opium smoking seems to be on the increase in Paris; and, as the smoking is carried on in private apartments, those who reside in them become intoxicated by the fumes. This occurred in the case of a young woman who prepared her husband's pipes, so that a craving was induced. To obtain sleep she became dependent upon opium-smoking and the atmosphere created by another smoker. Very soon symptoms of intoxication appeared—hysterical convulsions, neurasthenic anxiety, paralysis of will, excessive timidity, etc. Treated by hypnotic suggestion, she gave up opium-smoking and got well. Bérillon observes incidentally that the cat of the house and a servant who lived in the room exhibited signs of craving after the opium-smoking had ceased there.

H. J. MACEVOY.

Physicians as Expert Witnesses. (*Med.-Legal Journ.*, vol. xvii, No. 1, 1899.) Wollman.

These are comments on those defects of physicians as expert witnesses which most strike a practising lawyer in America. The critic's remedy for the evil of partisan expert evidence appears to be a suggestion from

the "trust" system : the medical societies of each locality are to combine and to select from their members a limited number, to whom alone they give authorisation to appear as expert witnesses.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Corporal Punishments for Crime. (Med.-Legal Journ., vol. xvii, No. 1, 1899.) Baldwin, Clark Bell, and others.

This subject is discussed in a number of papers read before the Medico-Legal Society of New York. The opinions expressed for and against the application of whipping and castration to criminals are supported by considerations of the theological and sentimental order, with much appeal to political and colour feeling. The discussion is without scientific interest.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

8. Asylum Reports.

*The Insane in India: Indian Asylum Reports for 1899.
Bombay Presidency.*

WE have been favoured with a copy of the report of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay to the Chief Secretary to Government, General Department. From it we propose to reproduce a number of paragraphs, avoiding all criticism, and contenting ourselves to allow the extracts to speak as to the present condition and administration of Indian asylums.

The only alterations carried out in the Ahmedabad Lunatic Asylum during the year under report were the addition of iron-barred doors to six cells for dangerous lunatics.

There was one case of escape from the Colába Lunatic Asylum on the night of July 17th, 1899. This man was a criminal lunatic, who was sent on June 27th, 1899, from the Ahmedabad Central Prison under sentence of transportation for life for murder. He was remarkable for the obstinacy with which he refused food, and had to be forcibly fed. He was from the very commencement under lock and key in a barred and bolted cell and gallery, and was never allowed into the grounds. It appears that by leverage he bent the bolt of the lock of his cell, reaching it easily through the bars of his door. He was thus free to enter the gallery, where there are eight windows, all closed by vertical iron bars an inch in diameter. He bent one of these iron bars sufficiently to wrench it from its socket; and, once in the grounds, escape was very easy, owing to constructional facilities. A police investigation of the circumstances was made, but without avail. Two night watchmen make the round of every part of the asylum every two hours, one for the European, and the other for the native sides. Just outside the gallery where this insane was confined, and commanding a full view of it, are stationed five warders, who take it in turn to be on guard for two hours each—to give water, help epileptic insanes, keep order, and generally to exercise supervision. These men, it should be observed, have to take their turn of night watching in addition to day duty.

Statement No. 7 gives the alleged causes of insanity among the