

to grasp the arguments or appreciate the standpoint of the old, and much which one reads upon this subject seems to show the old have, in some marvellous way, forgotten the time of trial which they passed through in youth. Happily, perchance, there is another side to Elia's touching exclamation, "From what have I not fallen, if the child I remember having been was indeed myself!" But, on the other hand, the ordinary adult has indeed fallen profoundly, if he was ever in a state in which a few guarded words on the wickedness of sin would confer on him an immunity against committing any sin to which his age and physical condition strongly tempted him.

Dr. Hime believes that he succeeded in stamping out self-abuse entirely in his school. If he did we heartily congratulate him, but we believe that the enforced example of his own enthusiasm, high-mindedness, and hard work did more than any dehortations from vice to bring about this most desirable consummation.

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*Varieties of Mental Disease in their Relation to Crime.*

In the Report of the Prison Commissioners for the year ending March, 1899, we note that the Medical Inspector, Dr. Herbert Smalley, has continued the admirable modifications which he introduced the previous year in the statistical tables dealing with the insanity of convicted prisoners.

The variety of mental disease is now specified in accordance with a modernised system of classification; and a table of peculiar interest is appended, showing the forms of criminal conduct related to the various types of alienation.

Seeing that, in the overwhelming majority of these cases, as Dr. Smalley has pointed out in previous reports, the mental state is obviously unsound on reception into prison, and symptoms become sufficiently definite to allow certification in the very early stages of imprisonment, we may safely regard the developing insanity as the cause of the criminal act. These records should, therefore, in a few years offer excellent material for a study of crime as a part of the semeiology of mental disease.

During the last two years 287 convicted prisoners (216 males and 71 females) were certified in the local prisons of England and Wales. This number is, of course, too small to

afford a basis for generalisations ; but it suggests, nevertheless, some interesting points.

The forms of mental disease which bulk most largely in the tables are the insanities characterised by systematised delusion, acute mania, and general paralysis. The delusional insanities account for nearly 37 per cent. of the whole ; they play the most important rôle in crimes of violence against the person, and are also the main factor in crimes against property. General paralysis, sufficiently pronounced for diagnosis, is noted in 28 cases (24 men and 4 women). As is usual in what Legrand du Saulle has termed the medico-legal period of this disease, the illegal acts committed with most frequency in these cases were petty crimes of acquisitiveness. Sexual offences appeared to be mainly related to states of dementia and congenital imbecility. Epileptic insanity was extremely rare, only three cases figuring in the statistics.

We trust that this interesting table will be a permanent feature in the Prison Blue Book.

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## Part II.—Reviews.

*The Fifty-third Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, England.*  
London, 1899. Pp. 476. Price 2s. 4d.

THE Commissioners in Lunacy in their annual report to the Lord Chancellor for the year 1898 startle us by recording an increase to the total number of known lunatics in England and Wales of 3114. This is the largest annual increase yet recorded, and exceeds the annual increase for the preceding year by 507. Undoubtedly these figures add weight to the remarks we made in reviewing the report for 1897. On that occasion we drew attention to the fact that the number of active Commissioners was too small for the work which is expected from them, and suggested as a possibility that the Lord Chancellor might, after some years, perceive the necessity of revising the constitution of the Board of Commissioners. When such a change occurs, we hope some statistical reformer may be added to the Commission—some one who may recognise the unrivalled opportunities which such a position holds out for the increase of our general knowledge of insanity, and its comprehensive scientific investigation—to inaugurate new procedure for the care of the insane, improved methods of treatment and suggestions for the prevention of insanity.

The increase in the total number of reported insane of 3114 includes 231 private patients, 2868 pauper and 15 criminal. The chief increase