

English local authorities, to judge from statistics, have not yet attempted to avail themselves of the provision afforded by section 57 of the Lunacy Act of 1890, which was constructed on the lines of the Scottish statute; on the contrary, the pauper lunatic in private dwellings, so far as England is concerned, is destined apparently, within a limited period, to extinction.

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*Verbrechen und Wahnsinn beim Weibe mit Ausblicken auf die Criminal-Anthropologie Ueberhaupt.* Von Dr. PAUL NÄCKE. Wien und Leipzig: Braumüller. 1894. Pp. 257.

Dr. Näcke's very careful and thorough investigation—clinical, anthropometric, and statistical—of one hundred criminal insane and insane criminal women (as compared with a considerable number of normal women) was duly summarized in this Journal when first published in the "Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie." The author has now elaborated his various studies of this material, as carried on at his asylum at Hubertusburg, in Saxony, into a volume which is well worth study. In many respects Dr. Näcke's position resembles that of Dr. Bäer, whose book was recently reviewed here. But wherever comparisons suggest themselves the Saxon asylum superintendent appears to greater advantage than the experienced Berlin prison director. Dr. Näcke is more in touch with recent progress in psychiatry and criminal anthropology; his own investigations are far more elaborate and complete, and he refrains from the confused piling up of other people's results and from futile criticism. His object is not to present a general manual of insanity and criminality in women, but simply to investigate his own cases, thoroughly and independently, to state his results as precisely as possible, and only to deal with other people's opinions so far as they bear strictly on the matter in hand.

Such general conclusions as Dr. Näcke tentatively reaches are perhaps less interesting than the admirable method and spirit with which his work is carried out. He recognizes a predisposition to criminality, but regards social causes as of far greater importance than organization. He refuses to accept any "criminal type," and minimizes the instinctive criminal, whom he is willing to identify with the moral imbecile; but in regard to the latter he will only admit that

there is an *apparent* absence of intellectual defect. There is an excellent chapter on the prevention and treatment of insanity.

It is not always possible to agree with Dr. Näcke's views, though they are always temperately and cautiously expressed. One may be permitted to believe that a wider induction of facts might sometimes modify the results. But as a whole the book cannot be neglected by anyone who is interested in the scientific progress of psychiatry.

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*Die Frage nach dem Geborenen Verbrecher.* Von Dr. J. L. A. Koch. Ravensburg: Maier. 1894.

There has lately been great activity in Germany in the investigation of criminal anthropology. In this pamphlet the experienced director of the Württemberg State Asylum at Zwiefalten brings forward his contribution of fact and opinion. His position, which is based on his own minute analysis of psychopathic conditions as expounded in his work, "*Die Psychopathische Minderwertigkeiten*," is midway between those who believe that criminality is solely due to social causes, and those who try to demonstrate the existence of a special human variety congenitally formed for crime.

In the first place, Dr. Koch gives some account of 205 skulls belonging to individuals (including both insane criminals and the criminal insane) who have died in the asylum during the last quarter of a century. From this collection he selected, without noting to what individuals they belonged, forty which seemed to show the greatest number of "atavistic" characters, subsequently comparing the clinical histories. Of these forty only two belonged to women, although the number of women in the asylum is not very inferior to that of men. Among the abnormal characteristics which each occurred in more than half (sometimes all) of these forty skulls were subnasal prognathism, receding forehead, very prominent supraciliary ridges, very prominent frontal bones, high frontal crest, prominent zygoma and massive lower jaw; torus palatinus, narrow or flat hard palate, abnormal spacing of teeth, sclerosis and plagiocephaly occurred in something less than half the number; and many other abnormalities in less than a quarter of them. Of these forty skulls, however, only five belonged to indi-