

conception of happiness is the belief in a happy futurity on earth, towards the realization of which each generation conduces with its labour and self-abnegation, the happiness of each separate individual being sacrificed to the welfare and happiness of the coming race. The following words out of Broca's speech in Moscow (1879) may serve to characterize these ideal conceptions: "Prehistoric man, the contemporary of the mammoth and cavern-bear, endowed with two miraculous organs, his brain and his hands, not only conquered these giants by the force of his dexterity and intellect, but became the monarch of the whole universe; what, therefore, ought not we in the future to expect from a contemporaneous generation at its present stage of culture, of science, its perfected materials for the investigation of the laws of nature and the subordination of nature to the aims and wishes of our generation!" This ideal scheme of future happiness of mankind wrought out by the unveiling of scientific truths constitutes the philosophy of progress.

The product of these various conceptions of happiness and yearnings towards its grasp is—existence, labour and useful activity. These yearnings after the ideal, ennoble and elevate the mind and serve as a counterbalance to oppressive impressions, imparting to man that moral power and energy which is so essential to support him through the hardships of life in his struggle for existence. This elevation of the tonus of the mind serves at the same time as a mighty shield against the injurious influence of oppressive circumstances, which, acting on the mental organism, weakens the intensity of those influences and thus protects the organism from morbidity. Therefore, the paramount duty of a community is to instil these ideal yearnings in the intellectual faculties of its members, bearing in mind that for the attainment of this aim it is essential to instil these conceptions in the mind of our youth; this solemn responsibility devolves upon our schools, though it is an incontestable fact that a pedagogical training can only be successfully achieved if it acts upon a healthy brain—a brain which is not overworked by the excessive exigencies of our contemporaneous schools.

(*To be continued.*)

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## 2. *Italian Retrospect.*

BY J. R. GASQUET, M.B.

A great part of the activity of Italian psychologists has been devoted during the last two years to the study of hypnotism. It may be generally remarked that their results have been rather confirmatory of what was previously known than in discovering new phenomena, though some of importance will presently be mentioned.

The following are the principal articles in the "Archivio":—Drs. Capelli and Bruglia have made a very careful study of the effects of various drugs on the general and intracranial circulation, of which the

following are the chief results: Amyl nitrite acts more rapidly and decidedly upon the vessels in the skull than on those of the forearm. The sphygmographic curves oscillate considerably, apparently from local causes, since they do not vary at the same time in different parts of the body. Chloral acts more speedily and markedly on the peripheral than on the cranial vessels, so that at first there is cerebral anæmia by diversion of the blood to the surface; but when the hypnotic effects of the drug begin the cranial vessels also become dilated, and this continues until sleep ceases, when it is again followed by temporary anæmia. Paraldehyde slowly diminishes the force of the heart, its maximum effect being reached when hypnosis is most profound. Its action on the peripheral circulation is less marked, but it produces paresis of the vessels, and consequent hyperæmia, whenever sleep is produced. On the cerebral circulation, on the contrary, little or no effect can be observed beyond that due to diminished cardiac propulsion. Hyoscyamine at first causes increased action of the heart and vascular tonus, both of which fall below the normal in about twenty minutes, the pulse becoming at the same time notably more frequent. Their experiments with warm baths differ from those obtained by others in this, that they find no evidence of an early stage of venous cerebral hyperæmia, but gradual anæmia from the first in almost all cases.

Dr. Rezzonico continues the researches of the school of Pavia into the histology of the nervous system by an account of the sheath of Schwann, which he believes to be a layer of fine connective tissue derived from the deep surface of the meninges, and applied to the roots of the spinal nerves as they pass through the pia mater.

Urethane has been tried fully as a hypnotic in the Ferrara Asylum, and the results recorded by Dr. Sighicelli. It proved uncertain in all the forms of insanity in which it was tried, even in melancholia and dementia, where others have been more successful. Respiration was found to be shallower and slower, though not affected in frequency; on the other hand, the heart acted more powerfully and quickly.

The same author gives the clinical history of four cases of low temperature in insanity, with a very full bibliography of the subject. His conclusion is that in all cases of low temperatures coarse brain-disease will be found after death, but that such lesions are of such diverse nature and seat that it is at present impossible to explain the phenomenon. His most striking instance is that of a woman in a state of secondary dementia. The temperature fell rapidly in the last week of life, and for the last three days did not rise above 28.6 c., falling just before death to 24.4, in spite of artificial warmth.

Prof. Raggi describes a case of acute melancholia in which what he terms "psychical contrast" was a prominent feature. What this is will be best understood by examples. The woman in question was always afraid of ill-treatment, yet she was continually committing acts of mischief and insubordination to justify the punishment she feared.

Similar cases are recorded where persons of religious and strict moral principles have broken out into blasphemy or obscenity from the mere dread they had of doing so. This is connected with like conditions in persons of sound mind (such as the tendency to laugh often experienced in moments of peculiar gravity or solemnity); also with similar contrasts observed by Féré and Binet when a hypnotized subject has suggestions made to him, and is then placed under the influence of a magnet.

A good instance of "folie à quatre" is described by Funaioli in a family consisting of an aged mother with one daughter and three sons, agricultural labourers, uneducated, and insufficiently fed. The daughter began by attributing gastric pain from which she suffered to poison and witchcraft, and this delusion was taken up by her brothers (all older than herself), and, the sister becoming maniacal, they finally threatened the lives of those whom they supposed to have produced their sister's condition. On being placed in the asylum and separated the brothers rapidly recovered, but the sister remained in a maniacal condition, refusing food and failing in bodily health.

The longest article in the "Archivio" is by Dr. Brugia on hypnotism, which runs over three numbers of the journal, and appears to be an excellent summary of what is known on the subject. The critical portion of the paper is mainly devoted to refuting Tamburini's and Seppilli's law that the several phases of hypnotism (lethargy, catalepsy, somnambulism) are due to a simply progressive increase of cerebro-spinal excitability produced by increasing the duration and intensity of the stimulus. The author has no difficulty in showing that this hypothesis is inconsistent with many of the facts, in particular with Dumontpallier's proof that the stimulus which produces any one of these states can also bring it to an end. The effect of hypnotism on the respiratory and circulatory functions is studied by graphic tracings. Respiration is not uniformly affected, but in one subject it was several times found to become exceedingly shallow during catalepsy, with an occasional very deep inspiration. The pulse likewise varies, but Brugia considers it always gives evidence of lessened vascular tonus. During lethargy the sphygmographic line rises; during catalepsy and somnambulism it falls progressively. During the last stage he has frequently been able to slacken the pulse by suggestion, but never to accelerate it.

The "Rivista Sperimentale" continues to maintain its high standard of excellence in previous years. Seppilli publishes a remarkable case in which during life the chief symptoms were hemiatrophy of the left side of the body, and frequent Jacksonian epilepsy, beginning in the left upper limb and spreading to the whole side. There was incomplete loss of sensation and motion in the same side. After the disease had lasted for eighteen years the patient died, and on post-mortem examination it was found that the whole of the motor cortical region of the right hemisphere was softened and completely disinte-

grated, the destruction extending as far inwards as the upper and external walls of the lateral ventricle. The author's explanation is that the basal ganglia share the motor functions of the cerebral cortex, and when this is destroyed may incompletely supply its place.

Tanzi and Riva conclude their study of paranoia, which was noticed at length in the last Retrospect, by replying to criticisms which have been addressed to them. They explain that they fully admit the existence of paranoia without delirium, that is, of hereditary "mattoidi" (the word is so good as to be worth quoting)—the indefatigable grumblers, letter-writers, and crazy persons who often afterwards develop positive insanity. On the other hand, they also hold that paranoia is not the only condition in which systematic delusions of chronic insanity can be built up, though it is the most frequent one. Little, therefore, seems to be left beyond the "atavistic" character of the insanity to justify the existence of paranoia as a general term, and the most interesting part of their work is that in which they point out that the delusions and acts of chronic lunatics are so constantly reversions to earlier conditions of the human race. Delusions of persecution, belief in alchemy, in impossible influences of magnetism or electricity were compatible with normal intelligence, even of a very high order, some centuries ago, their anachronism being their true morbid character. A subsequent article by Dr. Tonnini modifies appreciably this view. He lays stress on what Krafft-Ebing had already summarily remarked, that the group of symptoms thus termed may be completely developed under the influence of various grave diseases of infancy or from injury, sometimes as the result of an attack of ordinary insanity, and he argues from this that the changes which have taken several generations to produce in the hereditary lunatic may be brought about in one person. There remains, therefore, nothing characteristic of paranoia but the combination of insanity with mental degeneration. I have dwelt upon the subject at some length, partly because it seems to engage specially the attention of our *confrères* in Italy, but still more because we seem here to have got to the real interest of the question. We should probably all of us be somewhat impatient of a discussion over schemes of classification, but it would be very interesting to know whether Tonnini's statement can be verified, and to see if the evolution of chronic insanity in an individual with no hereditary antecedents follows the same course and ultimately assumes the same form as in other instances is the work of several generations.

Dr. Petrazzani relates two cases of obstinate hysterical paralyses cured at once by suggestion during hypnotism. He enters at length into the mechanism of suggestion, in which I need not follow him, but the practical value of the point is obvious.

Dr. Seppilli has continued in the asylum at Imola the experiments I have formerly referred to on the composition of the blood in the insane. He now gives the results of his examination of the blood of

200 patients (104 males, 96 females). The points investigated were the proportion of red corpuscles (by Hayem's method) and the amount of hæmoglobin, as estimated by Bizzozero's chromocytometer. The chief result is that the red discs are less in number, and the hæmoglobin diminished in amount in a large number of cases of insanity in their early stages, more frequently and more markedly in women than in men. This, as he notes, confirms the conclusions at which Dr. Rutherford Macphail arrived in his prize Essay.

Dr. Bernardini relates the case of an incomplete idiot in the asylum of Reggio, whose head was large and globular, suggesting hydrocephalus, but the patient dying at the age of 21 it was found to be one of the much rarer cases of cerebral hypertrophy. The encephalon weighed 1,755 grammes, the sulci in the convolutions were unusually deep, the basal ganglia and cerebellum very large. Histologically examined, the neuroglia was found considerably increased in volume, the elements of which it was made up being also increased in size. The nerve-cells, on the contrary, were diminished in number and size, and their protoplasm in great part replaced by pigmented or fatty granules. The vessels had undergone fatty degeneration, the perivascular spaces were dilated and full of leucocytes. All these appearances were most marked in the convolutions, and became gradually less towards the cord.

The following are the chief points of interest in Lombroso's "Archivio." Dr. Mingazzini reports the cranial anomalies of 75 insane persons as compared with others. The general conclusions are:—The pterygoid processes of the sphenoid bone are notably wider than in the sane, the glabella and supraciliary ridges are more prominent, the frontal sinuses are more often either very large or almost absent. Synostosis of the cranial bones occurs earlier and is more marked in the insane, especially in epileptics. Dr. Busdraghi examines a large number of cases of theft by the insane, the chief results being the great proportion of hysterical women, and the frequency with which theft was committed with great skill, or ingeniously excused afterwards. There is an interesting account of the criminal asylum recently opened at Montelupo, between Florence and Pisa. It is constructed to receive 52 persons in process of trial, and 200 after sentence. At the time it was visited there were six in the former and 90 in the latter division. There are eighteen warders and eight infirmarians. A sufficiency of outdoor work seems provided, and the chief difficulties appear to be due to the warders, who are not accustomed to the care of the insane and the subordination of the medical superintendent to the legal authorities.

We have received for notice two works which lie rather outside our province. Signor de Bella has published "Prolegomena of Elementary Philosophy," in which he gives a very brief but lucid sketch of cosmology, logic, psychology, and ethics from an eclectic point of view, but taking into account the progress of science.

Dr. Panizza sends us the third edition of his work on the "Physiology of the Nervous System and Psychical Actions," which I have noticed in a former number of this Journal. He has collected a large number of objections to the received doctrine of transmission of sensory impressions and motor impulses by the nerves, for which he would substitute a conception for the whole nervous system like that which Brown-Séguard advocates for the encephalon.

## PART IV.—NOTES AND NEWS.

### THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at Bethlem Hospital on Friday, the 24th February, 1888, at 4 p.m. The chair was occupied by Dr. Needham, and among others present were Drs. A. J. Alliot, S. H. Agar, R. Baker, G. F. Blandford, Fletcher Beach, D. Bower, C. S. W. Cobbold, H. Chapman, H. Case, P. E. Campbell, T. J. Compton, P. M. Deas, W. Eager, L. Francis, W. Habgood, H. G. Hill, J. Hughlings Jackson, S. E. Lisle, J. M. Lindsay, H. Maudsley, J. M. Moody, W. J. Mickle, P. W. MacDonald, H. C. MacBryan, J. T. E. Mortimer, A. MacLean, H. Hayes Newington, D. Nicholson, A. S. Newington, S. R. Philipps, W. H. Platt, J. H. Paul, H. Rayner, G. H. Savage, H. Sutherland, R. L. Rutherford, H. R. Sankey, J. B. Spence, S. A. K. Strahan, E. Toller, F. W. Thurnam, Hack Tuke, T. S. Tuke, E. B. Whitcombe, T. O. Wood, F. J. Wright, &c.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association:—John A. Cones, M.R.C.S., Burgess Hill, Sussex; Magnus V. Manson, B.A., L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S., Haywards Heath Asylum.

Dr. SAVAGE exhibited a carcinomatous brain of a patient supposed to be a general paralytic, explaining that Dr. Percy Smith, who had prepared a paper, was unfortunately prevented from being present. (See "Clinical Notes and Cases.")

Dr. HUGHLINGS JACKSON said that the paper was a consoling one to him, as he had made the same mistake. He should like to know whether there was any alteration in the condition of articulation.

Dr. SAVAGE said there was an alteration distinctly in that direction. There was tremor of the muscles. The handwriting was affected. The reflexes were exaggerated, and her walk was unsteady. The pupils were unequal. She had convulsive seizures. There was no optic neuritis. At one time there was a certain amount of exaltation as to her own powers. Dr. Hack Tuke had seen the case many times, and would concur in what he said.

Dr. HUGHLINGS JACKSON read a paper "On Post-Epileptic States."

The PRESIDENT said that a study of such complexity and elaborateness as was contained in the paper just read was calculated almost to take away one's power of expression if not power of thought. He must profess himself quite incapable of offering criticism upon the paper; but this did not preclude him from saying with what interest he had listened to it, and how gratified he was that Dr. Hughlings Jackson had consented to read it.

Dr. SAVAGE said that in offering a few remarks upon the subject he felt like a Curtius, and feared that he might lose himself in the gap. With regard to the subject of Dr. Jackson's paper, one felt that it was so much part of himself that