

*Psychiatry and the Criminal Child* [*La psychiatrie de l'enfance criminelle*]. (*L'Hyg. Ment.*, September–October, 1927.) Roubinovitch, J.

While admitting that innate qualities play an important part in the determination of criminal tendencies, the author places most importance on environmental conditions.

The French law of July, 1912, removed children from the jurisdiction of the criminal courts and placed juvenile delinquents under the care of a special tribunal. M. Roubinovitch stresses the value of this procedure, and gives examples to show how, in dealing with such cases, the court investigates the whole of the influences to which the child is subjected, and how the method of dealing with the child is derived as a result of these investigations. He makes a strong plea for making medical examination of these cases compulsory, instead of, as at present, optional. R. S. GIBSON.

*The Care of the Alcoholic and New Legal Projects for Dealing with the Insane* [*L'assistance des alcooliques et le nouveau projet de lois sur les aliénés*]. (*L'Hyg. Ment.*, June, 1927.) Mignol, Roger.

This is a strong plea for the adequate treatment of alcoholism. Contrary to our preconceived ideas there appears to be a real alcohol problem in France, and during the past five years there has been a remarkable increase in the number of alcoholics. Institutional treatment of such cases is singularly inadequate and the author strongly urges that power be given to enforce early and prolonged treatment.

As a matter of interest he gives the text of a recent law on the subject introduced at Geneva. R. S. GIBSON.

*Divorce on Account of Insanity* [*Le divorce pour cause d'aliénation mentale*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, July, 1927.) Eissen, J., and Provent, P.

This paper (by a medical man and a lawyer) is a discussion of the various aspects of a proposition to make divorce possible in the case of a legal insanity occurring in one of the partners of a marriage. In existing French law divorce is not provided for on this ground. (It was temporarily legal under the Revolution in 1792.) Divorces on account of mental disease would be contrary to the French legal conception of the duties of marriage, as well as to the implication of divorce itself. The immense practical difficulties in fairly and equitably carrying out any such law are set out and discussed very fully from various points of view. W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Forensic Psychiatry and Psychiatric Annexes to Prisons* [*L'expertise psychiatrique et les annexes psychiatriques des prisons*]. (*L'Hyg. Ment.*, December, 1927.) Claude, H.

Professor Claude deplors the lack of facilities for the study of mental cases among prisoners in France, and surveys recent developments in Belgium, where in four prisons psychiatric wards have been

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