

note. The existence, for instance, of insanity, crime, suicide, and alcoholism in the family history of the assassins, and the physical and mental stigmata of degeneracy which these individuals bore, afford a good example of the pathological basis and affinities of the criminal character. These points are well brought out in Lombroso's interesting analysis of the case.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*The Relation of Alcoholism to Tuberculosis.* (*Quarterly Journal of Inebriety*, vol. xxiv, No. 2, April, 1902.) Kelynach.

The author shortly reviews the opinions which have been held regarding the relationship of alcoholism to tubercular disease. There are three possible views, and each has had its advocates: (1) that alcoholism is antagonistic to tuberculosis; (2) that alcoholism has no special relationship to tuberculosis; (3) that alcoholism definitely predisposes to tuberculosis. The last view is that which at present tends to prevail, and the most reliable sort of evidence—that afforded by the pathological study of a large mass of cases—is strongly in its favour. For instance, in ten fatal cases of alcoholic polyneuritis the author found pulmonary tuberculosis in eight. And examination of the records of the Manchester Royal Infirmary showed evidence of tubercular disease in 23 *per cent.* of the fatal cases of common hepatic cirrhosis.

In the author's experience the tubercular processes, as met with in alcoholics, do not present any special or exceptional features.

The peculiar liability of alcoholics to tubercle is in part to be ascribed to their impaired vitality, but is even more importantly related to the unhygienic conditions of public-houses, which in these countries must be amongst the most dangerous agents for the spread of infection. A practical corollary to be drawn from these facts is that outdoor labour and special precautions against tubercular infection are essential in institutions for the care of the inebriate.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*Superfluous Autopsies* [*Ueber überflüssige Sectionen*]. (*Arch. für Kriminalanthropologie*, Bd. viii.) Kornfeld.

This paper has, at least, the quality of the unusual. It is a protest from a criminologist of repute against the holding of *post-mortem* examinations in cases where the cause of death can be inferred with reasonable probability from other evidence. The author is particularly opposed to the provision of the Prussian law which requires autopsies for legal purposes to be performed by two doctors in the presence of a magistrate. The grounds of objection appear to be partly sentimental and partly economical. If such a thing were conceivable about a German professor, one might suspect a ponderous *jeu d'esprit*.

W. C. SULLIVAN.