

PART III.—PSYCHOLOGICAL RETROSPECT.

1. *Retrospect of Criminal Anthropology.*

By HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Crime and its Causes. By W. D. Morrison, of H.M. Prison, Wandsworth. "Social Science Series." Sonnenschein, London. 1891.

This is an excellent little introduction to the study of criminality in its various aspects. In French there is a somewhat similar book of a more brilliant and elaborate character—Tarde's "*Criminalité Comparée*"—but Mr. Morrison's book is the first of its kind in England, and deserves a hearty welcome. The author is throughout in sympathy with the modern methods of studying criminality; he deals first with the cosmic factors in the production of criminality (climate, season, etc.), then with the social factors (destitution and poverty), and finally with the biological factors (criminal anthropology proper), with a concluding chapter on punishment. At the outset Mr. Morrison shows that crime is not diminishing in England, either in amount or in seriousness, but is on the whole increasing, and he points out the various fallacies which have led to a contrary supposition. In an interesting chapter on Climate and Crime he brings together much of the evidence on the subject, examines the various fallacies involved, and shows that the whole body of evidence, from whatever quarter it is collected, points with remarkable unanimity to the conviction that, as far as European peoples and their offshoots are concerned, climate alone is no inconsiderable factor in determining the course of human conduct. Although this matter has often been dealt with by continental writers, it has not before been shown so clearly that in England and English Colonies the same factor of climate exerts the same influence in increasing or diminishing crimes of violence. The same may be said of the influence of season on crimes against property, which is dealt with in Chapter III. Mr. Morrison shows that the constant augmentation of crime in England during the summer cannot be traced to an increase of drinking, vagrancy, or other social causes, but is due to the influence of season, and "that any considerable rise of temperature has a tendency, as far as Europeans and their descendants are concerned, to diminish human responsibility." He points out that this influence may be traced in prison and out of it, among children in schools, soldiers in the army, workmen in factories. In a chapter on Destitution and Crime, founded on English statistics, Mr. Morrison brings forward arguments to show that the number of offenders who fall into crime through the pressure

of absolute want is five per cent. of the annual criminal population tried before the courts, and that consequently even "although there was not a single destitute person in the whole of England and Wales, the annual amount of crime would not be thereby appreciably diminished." In the next chapter on the allied question of Poverty and Crime, Mr. Morrison shows that where there is most poverty there is least crime. This also corresponds with the result of foreign investigations; in France, for instance, it has been found that crime is associated with prosperity. This fact is in curious contrast with an opinion widely spread to-day. As Mr. Morrison remarks: "It has been reserved for this generation to propagate the absurdity that the want of money is the root of all evil; all the wisest teachers of mankind have hitherto been disposed to think differently, and criminal statistics are far from demonstrating that they are wrong." After devoting a chapter to Criminality in Relation to Age and Sex, Mr. Morrison turns to the biological factor and considers the evidence regarding the mental and physical characters of criminals, and summarizes some of the evidence which enables us to demonstrate that "criminals, taken as a whole, exhibit a higher proportion of physical anomalies and a higher percentage of physical degeneracy than the rest of the community," and that "the bulk of the criminal classes are of a humbly developed mental organization," by whatever scientific term we may choose to describe this low mental organization. In the last chapter on Punishment, Mr. Morrison has little that is new to bring forward, but he gives a good description of the methods now adopted in this country, and makes some sensible remarks on the necessity of properly training prison officers. The book is throughout simply and clearly written, and should do much to revive an interest in the scientific study of criminality in England.

The New York State Reformatory in Elmira. By Alexander Winter. "Social Science Series." Sonnenschein, London. 1891.

Mr. Winter's little book, published simultaneously in England and Germany, is the best available account of the work carried on in the famous "Moral Sanatorium" of New York. It presents in a concise and yet interesting form all the various aspects of that many-sided institution, dealing with the organization of the establishment, the reception, promotion, and liberation (on parole) of the prisoners, their daily routine and diet, the school and library of the institute, the "Summary," a newspaper edited and printed by the prisoners, the technical training and industrial occupations of the prisoners, the results of the experiments in physical training and in military training, together with a summary of the general results attained in the fifteen years during which the reformatory has been in existence.

Fifteenth Annual Report of the New York State Reformatory at Elmira. 1890.

There were 1,500 inmates at Elmira during 1890, 1,111 of whom received trade instruction, while with few exceptions they all received more or less military training. Admirable facilities for the physical training which forms so important a part of the treatment at Elmira have now been provided by the completion of the gymnasium. This includes a Turkish bath with rubbing, warm and hot rooms and plunge, and a light and well-ventilated exercising room, equipped with developing apparatus of approved model and construction. Dr. Wey tells us in his report that 128 men have received treatment in the gymnasium during the year, either for physical renovation, for intellectual or for moral improvement. "The effect upon the dullard of the bath, exercise and dietetics, quickens and widens the scope of motor and sensory functions, draws out latent energy, and establishes in a degree a susceptibility to class-room influences. Thus qualities of cerebration become reasonably certain that were possible but not probable during a continuance of the patient's vegetative state. He needs cyclonic action to institute a proper mental habitude and dispel his crudities of mind. Those selected for ethical improvement were instances of low and faulty bodily conditions operating to the detriment of order and behaviour." The report is followed this year by a most remarkable descriptive appendix, such as has probably never before followed a prison report. "This appendix," we are told, "is entirely the product of inmate labour in the institution. The text has been prepared by the Editor of the "Summary," the illustrations have been made from photographs taken by an inmate operator, and from drawings made by inmates; the etchings were made on the premises by inmates in that special department, and the entire pamphlet (including the annual report) was printed on the reformatory press, and bound at the reformatory book-bindery." The illustrations are nearly fifty in number, half-a-dozen of them representing various aspects of the Physical Culture Department. It must be remembered that the "inmates" of Elmira are ordinary criminals, many of whom would here be convicts. It may be added that of the 324 men discharged on parole during the year, 148 went directly to the trades learned at the reformatory, 127 took other situations in expectation of adopting later on the trades they had learnt, and 49 were given paid employment at the reformatory.

Les Grands Criminels de Vienne. Étude Anthropologique des Cerveaux et des Crânes de la Collection Hoffmann. Par le Professeur Benedikt. I. Hugo Schenk. ("Archives de l'Anthropologie Criminelle," 15 May, 1891).

This is an interesting study, carried out in Prof. Benedikt's usual elaborate style, of an interesting subject, and is illustrated

by a number of tables and diagrams. Hugo Schenk was accustomed to form *liaisons* with old and ugly cooks, and when he grew tired of them, which was usually very soon, he sometimes murdered them. He appears to have been gifted with unusual sexual vigour, and being of a lazy disposition he exercised it for a living. Sometimes, however, his victims were young and honest girls, of whom also he soon grew tired. He was handsome, very intelligent, and an excellent talker. If he had been born a "*grand seigneur*" Benedikt thinks that he would have had a most happy and successful career; and on account of his eloquence would probably have attained high eminence as a statesman. He was executed at the age of 36.

The total weight of the brain was 1,455 grammes. This weight was not, however, in proportion to the cranial capacity (1,700 c.c. m.), and there was a considerable amount of hydrocephalus. The brain alone weighed 1,261 gr.; the left hemisphere being 629 gr., the right, 632 gr.; the cerebellum weighed 194 gr. The brain was very abnormal; thus the hippocampal convolution was separated from the posterior parts of the brain by a fissure (called by Benedikt limbic, or fissure of Broca), which Giacomini had only observed once in man, and then in an idiot. The frontal and parietal lobes on the left side (especially the first parietal convolution) were found to be very small, though here and there abnormally large and with frequent peculiarities. On the other hand there was an enormous development of the external part of the occipital lobe. The brain was therefore marked by a multiplicity of points both of over-development and of under-development. Benedikt hesitatingly suggests the possibility of a connection between the vicious cerebral development of this subject and his excessive sexual activity. "Knowing the intimate relations of the sexual life with all the elements of the intellectual life, with the most various sentiments, with the energy of the will, with the intensity of life generally, and with the visual and cutaneous impressions, it may be said that the centres of sexual life should be found on various points of the cerebral surface. . . In presence of this case one may in fact ask oneself if the occipital lobe and the neighbouring parts of the temporal lobe are not the centres of the sexual faculty; and if this centre is not unilateral and on the left side. One may also ask whether the sexual centre does not possess other localized spots, on the left in the two central ascending convolutions, on the right in the anterior central convolutions and the second parietal." He also suggests that this point might be elucidated by the comparative study of normal and castrated animals; he had begun researches in this direction, but found difficulty in obtaining suitable brains.

On turning to the skull the face is found to be very well developed, the dentition complete and regular, the lower jaw "classic," the orbits large and remarkably high, and the face

generally symmetrical. The head, on the other hand, is very abnormal. The sutures are united to an extraordinary and almost pathological extent for the age (36); internally there are only traces of the sagittal suture; the coronary, lambdoid, sphenoidal and spheno-occipital sutures have disappeared. The cranial asymmetry is also very great, even on simple inspection; thus the parietal region is larger on the right, the parieto-occipital on the left. It is, however, impossible to summarize Prof. Benedikt's minute examination of the various cranial abnormalities. This is the first of a series of studies which promises to be of considerable interest.

Un Faux Regicide. Par Les Drs. G. Ballet et P. Garnier.
("Archives de l'Anthropologie Criminelle," 15th May, 1891.)

This is a report on the mental condition of a man, M. J., who discharged a revolver, having first removed the bullet, in the presence of the President of the Republic. There were no physical peculiarities worthy of mention; the forehead was rather large, the aspect mild. The prisoner speaks with difficulty and cannot easily find the right word. But he seems pleased to talk about the adventures and miseries of his life, and his narrative, though rather confused, has every appearance of perfect sincerity. He has been always in search of inventions and of the solution of problems which are perhaps insoluble. When this tendency is allied to a strong intellect, it may result in genius; when, however, as in this case, the intellectual faculties are feeble, it can only lead to misfortune or even insanity. M. J. is neither a genius nor insane; he belongs to the group which may be described as unbalanced, some of the mental faculties being remarkably developed, while others are almost embryonic. M. J. has always had a taste for mechanics, which has at last become a passion with him. His father would not encourage his tastes and he left home at the age of fifteen. Ever since he has been pursuing his ideal, and endeavouring to save money for his mechanical hobbies. His occupation has usually been that of a waiter in a *café*; he has never been able to be a waiter in a restaurant, because his memory is so bad. Everywhere he has met with misfortunes and disappointments. He exhibited his inventions, some of which, especially a mechanical bed, showed great skill and ingenuity. Yet he has always had a feeble memory and was not able to learn at school. "I can easily understand the working of a machine," he said, "but I cannot recall words or names." But even his inventions are often absurd, and there is no doubt that he is intellectually weak. He has an enthusiastic belief in his own skill, and has long sought means to overcome the indifference of the public. All his attempts to attract attention failed, and he resolved, at last, to discharge a revolver as the President was passing. He meditated his act and was responsible, conclude

Drs. Ballet and Garnier, but he had no criminal intention. He is weak-minded; he is a candidate for insanity, though a candidate who may never arrive. The right place for him is a work-room, not an asylum. In consequence of this report M. J. was liberated.

Dr. Emile Laurent: *L'Année Criminelle* (1889-1890). Lyons and Paris, 1891.

It can scarcely be said that this volume is worthy of the reputation of the author of the "Habités des Prisons." It is the first of a series in which the "celebrated" criminals of the year are to be scientifically classed and analyzed, and the motives and consequences of their crimes considered. "These analyses will thus be," says Dr. Laurent, "studies in criminal psychology, at the same time as studies in moral hygiene." And a short preface by M. Tarde, written in his usual thoughtful and felicitous style, expresses the same idea. But the greater part of the book is founded on ordinary newspaper reports, and, notwithstanding the intelligence with which they are treated, such reports are extremely unsatisfactory from a scientific standpoint. The most interesting section of the volume is that dealing with political criminals, and the interest of this is due to the fact that here Dr. Laurent has taken a wider outlook, not confining himself within the limits he had prescribed. He maintains that political criminals, more even than ordinary criminals, are eccentric and mentally unhinged, or even sometimes feeble-minded. "From the physical point of view, also, political criminals appear to me to present certain particular characters. I have examined a great many portraits of regicides and revolutionaries, and I have found—I do not say constantly or fatally, but with remarkable frequency—certain morphological abnormalities, exaggerated prominence of the orbital arches and of the cheek-bones, prognathism or elongation of the lower jaw, and, in women, the characteristics of virile physiognomy, already noted by Lacassagne and Lombroso as common among criminals, and, I would add, among the insane." There is a curious chapter on Boulanger and the Boulangists, in which the physical and moral characteristics of Boulanger and his followers, Rochefort, Dillon, and Naquet, are presented in a very unpleasant light as abnormal, eccentric, or feeble. Dr. Laurent finds some significance in the fact that a year or two ago Boulanger was extremely popular among the insane and imbecile in asylums. The volume is illustrated by twenty-four portraits.

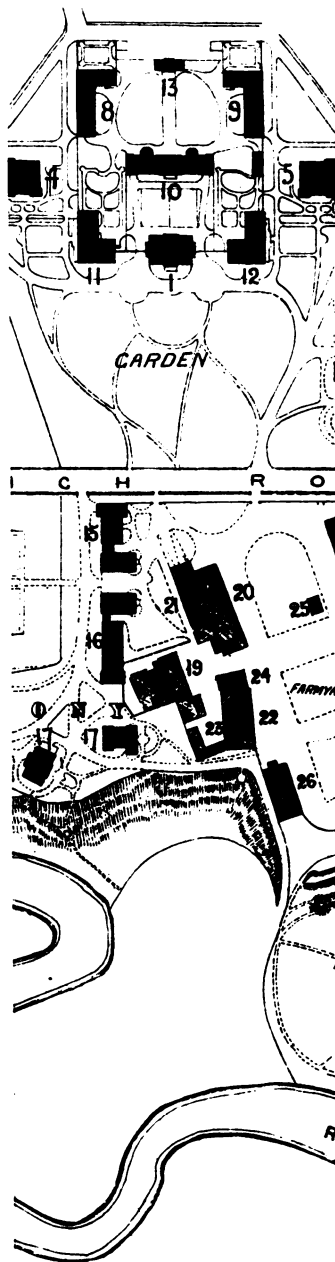
Le Crime en Pays Créoles. Par le Dr. A. Corre. Lyons and Paris.

This "natural history of crime, as it may be observed in countries of old French civilization, but of distinct races and opposite tendencies," is by the author of "Les Criminels" and of other

valuable monographs in criminal anthropology; his experience of Creole lands has been gained both as physician and magistrate. The term Creoles (*criollos*), applied originally only to children of white race born in regions conquered and exploited by their fathers, is now extended to all elements of the population, white and black, found on the spot. Dr. Corre deals with Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guiana, and Réunion, and considers the general evolution and history of criminality in Creole countries, the general factors of local criminality, the special forms of Creole criminality, and the forms of imported (coolie) criminality. A considerable portion of the book deals with the painful record of the cruelty and oppression of the whites towards the blacks. The epoch of emancipation led to a period in which both sides practised abominations. Now, criminality is diminishing, though it is still large. Emancipation, Dr. Corre concludes, has certainly ameliorated the negro. His chief motives of crime are passion and superstition; his sexual instincts are strong and he is quarrelsome, but not cruel; he has few needs and is not avaricious. Dr. Corre is strongly of opinion that the social order best adapted to the white races is not suited to the negro.

L'Anthropologie Criminelle. Par le Dr. Xavier Francotte.
Bruxelles, 1890.

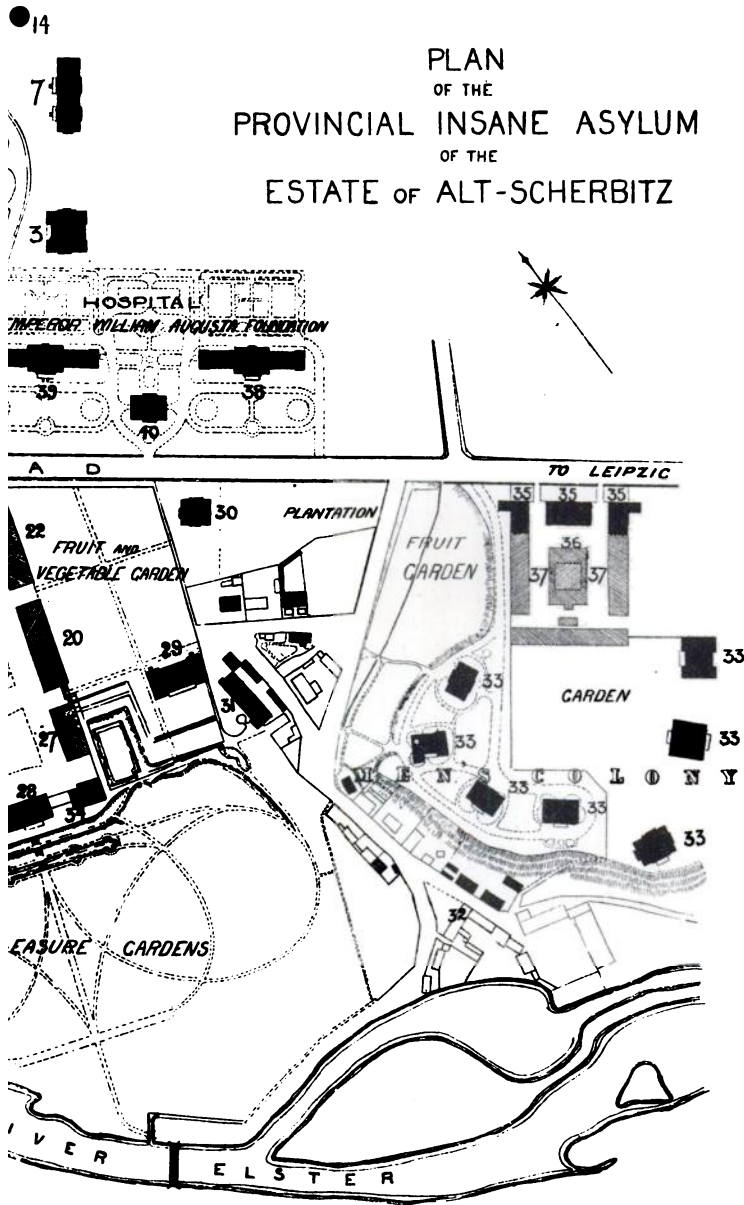
In this reprint from the "Revue des Questions Scientifiques," Professor Francotte, of Liège University, brings together into a small space a considerable mass of the alleged data of criminal anthropology. The author's own conclusions are confused and uncertain. At one moment he appears to accept the scientific attitude in approaching these questions of medical jurisprudence, and the next moment he faces the opposite way. He is hardy enough to affirm that the treatment of the body can have no influence on the passions and vices of the mind, and considers that the prison chaplain is amply competent to cope with crime. The experience of Elmira may be unknown to Professor Francotte, but Elmira is founded on a truth which was known very long before the reformatory was established. In conclusion, the writer repeats a very reasonable wish, often expressed before, that lawyers should be initiated in legal medicine and criminal anthropology. The lawyer must either be competent to decide in medico-legal matters, or he must, to some extent, give place to a competent medico-legal tribunal. There seems to be no other way of stating this dilemma.



ALT-SCHERBITZ

Whitman & Bass, Photo. Litho. London.

PLAN
 OF THE
 PROVINCIAL INSANE ASYLUM
 OF THE
 ESTATE OF ALT-SCHERBITZ



ASYLUM.