

to help the insane before they can be taken to the asylum and after they have been discharged ; to keep in touch with their families and to contribute to a diffusion of a proper knowledge of the causes and effects of insanity, and especially to combat the improper use of alcohol. It is to this society that the honour of having first initiated the practice of family care of the insane in Imola belongs. Ferrari presented at the International Congress on the Care of the Insane, held in Vienna, a report on the relationship between this society and family care. According to Ferrari, family care ought to be undertaken, not by the provincial administrations, but by societies of patronage, encouraged and sustained by them. It would lessen the fear the provincial administrations have of incurring heavy charges without certain good result. Family care has also been commenced at Volterra, and thirty-four insane people are lodged with families in the vicinity of the asylum.

Italian psychiatry during the past year has sustained the loss of two eminent savants : Professor Virgilio, Director of the Asylum of Aversa, who scientifically demonstrated the pathological nature of crime and advocated the institution of special asylums for criminals ; and Dr. Marchi, who will always be remembered by the histological method which bears his name.

There has been founded a new psychiatric review under the direction of Professor D'Abundo, of Catania—*La Rivista Italiana di neuropatologia, psichiatria ed elettroterapia*.

In conclusion I repeat what I said at the commencement, that our alienists during the year under review have worked by preference in the field of neurology, where the progress has been truly satisfactory, while in the province of psychiatry proper work has been much more limited. One notes, however, with pleasure a continual progress as regards the care and treatment of the insane in Italy.

SPAIN.

By W. COROLEU.

During the past year, death has been active in the psychiatric world of Spain. Dr. Dolsa, well known as Director of the Phrenopathic Institute of Barcelona, and Dr. Rodrigo Gonzalez, an accomplished and learned asylum physician, died within a short time of each other. Dr. Dolsa excelled in the legal and forensic aspect of insanity, and was an original and profound scholar. Dr. Gonzalez was chiefly famous as the founder of a practical school for the education of hospital friars and nuns, the first of its kind in Spain, where there is so much need for them. He also wrote a modest work on the *Volitional Insanities*.

The faculties of medicine are beginning to appreciate the need for the study of mental diseases, and in Barcelona, a course of somewhat desultory lectures—but better than nothing—have been started in St. Baudilius Asylum. Unfortunately, the want of professors specially trained, minimises the value of this kind of teaching, which is now confined to the physicians of the asylum. The obstinacy in not creating a chair of psychiatry, and the inclusion of the latter with the

chair of legal medicine, is a serious drawback to progress. I must mention, however, that a desirable reform has been made regarding the Army Medical Department. The course of study now includes mental diseases, with practical experience, as a compulsory subject. Dr. Fernandez Victorio, a most respected military specialist, well known because of his unique lectures on "Insanity in the Army," has been proposed as professor. By a curious anomaly in our administrative methods the Army Medical Service will be trained in a subject not taught in our ordinary medical schools.

The past year has been somewhat scanty in publications. One ought to mention, however, an interesting study of a rare character by Dr. Bravo Moreno, a forensic physician, on cases of self-accusation in connection with the recent dynamite outrages, into which snare the authorities fell. Others have written on the same subject. Dr. Lubra Marzo has published a work on *Criminal Brains*; two pamphlets have appeared on "Volition as a Brain Force," one by Professor Vallejo, and the other by Dr. Melcior; also a leaflet from the veteran Dr. Galcerán, on "Phrenopathic Diagnosis," and a memoir on the "Treatment of Epilepsy," by young Dr. Reventos. The *Phrenopathic Review* has celebrated the sixth anniversary of its foundation, and is full of vigour. Dr. Galcerán's *Archives of Nervous and Mental Therapeutics* is older still.

Work otherwise has been scanty. Even the translation of foreign works has not been undertaken, and such well-known treatises as those of Kraepelin, Ebing, B. Lewis, and Clouston are not to be found in the Spanish language. Naturally, suitable psychiatric attainments are rare among physicians, and in Gerona, two attempts to fill the vacant post of physician-superintendent have failed for want of fitting candidates.

Legislation has made no serious progress. The Secretary for the Home Department has issued a decree providing for the enforcement of certain bureaucratic regulations, a good principle being introduced that of "temporal licenses" hitherto most energetically prohibited. It is no secret, however, that all asylums have had them. There has been no further accommodation and, generally speaking, no provision whatever made for the training of mental nurses and the teaching of mental science. Some articles in a widely-read newspaper, *La Vanguardia*, by Dr. Bertran Rubio, have caused some agitation among the people for a more complete and rational legislation for the care of the insane and the abolition of the red-tape methods which actually hinder the admission of lunatics to asylums. It is thought that a move will be made by the Ministry soon, but it is curious to note that two Madrid physicians of some repute have been in the ministry without any effort being made to improve the psychiatric world of Spain.