

"altruistic hypochondriacs," "sophists," and so on. Dr. Benedikt confines himself to the use of these energetic epithets and to the rhetorical invocation of universal practice in regard of alcohol; he does not meet the theory which he denounces by criticism either of the experiments on which it is based or of the interpretation which has been placed upon these experiments.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*An International Swindler [La Truffatrice intronazionale]. (Riv. Mens. di Psich. Forense, Anno 1, 1899.) Bianchi, L.*

This is a medico-legal report on the condition of a lady arrested for repeated acts of fraud and theft. Her history is of interest. During the past twenty years she has been under treatment in Camberwell and Banstead Asylums in this country, in three asylums in America, and in many on the Continent. She was of good family (with a marked predisposition to phthisis and nervous disease) and highly educated. She was the authoress of two novels of the decadent type, which caused some talk when they were published in 1892. The chief difficulty in deciding the question of her responsibility arose from the largely negative results of her examination. The reports sent from the different institutions were vague and unsatisfactory, and no definite diagnosis had evidently been possible. Morphinism, hallucinations of hearing, and tendency to suicide were facts, however, stated in different reports. From the history and the great variety of the symptoms of her different illnesses, Professor Bianchi came to the conclusion that her condition had an hysterical basis, and that she was not responsible. This finding was accepted by the Tribunal. Subsequent symptoms also confirmed this diagnosis.

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*On the Isolation of Tubercular Patients in Asylums for the Insane [Sur l'isolement des Tuberculeux dans les Asiles d'Aliénés]. (Rev. de Psychiat., No. 1, 1901.) Marie.*

This is an extract from a communication made at the Congress of Psychiatry, 1900, in collaboration with Dr. Toulouse. It is important, in the first place, that candidates for the post of attendants in asylums should be carefully selected before being engaged, and attendants properly treated (isolated, etc.) when suffering from phthisis. Disinfection of infected rooms, and avoidance of overwork among them should be attended to. A special asylum sanatorium for tubercular patients should be erected. At Villejuif this is already realised. Attention is called to the mortality statistics of the asylum in the department of the Seine. Out of a total of 1017 deaths there were 170 from pulmonary affections (including forty-five cases of phthisis, eleven of hæmoptysis, and thirty-three of chronic bronchitis). Some reference is made to information obtained from Great Britain, Italy, and Germany on this question of tuberculosis in the insane.

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