

7. Sociology.

The Correlation of Sexual Function with Insanity and Crime.
(*Scalpel*, Feb., 1900.) Macnaughton-Jones, H.

This is a report of Dr. Macnaughton-Jones' address to the British Gynæcological Society at the close of his year of office as president. The writer points out that the present state of our knowledge only admits of very tentative opinions on the relation of sexual function to psychic processes. The first point dealt with is the influence of menstruation on such processes; the magnitude of the alterations in the entire genital tract at each menstrual period is indicated, and note is taken of recent researches into the effects of ovarian secretion on general and nervous metabolism, especially as illustrated in the pathology of osteomalacia. Having touched on the various minor neuroses which appear to be reflex results of genital disorders, the author discusses briefly the relation of such disorders to the graver neuroses and to mental disease. In this connection, he refers to the published clinical evidence (chiefly by American authors) of insanity and epilepsy associated with pelvic disease and disappearing after the removal of the diseased organs. *Per contra*, however, attention is drawn to the large number of cases of insanity with pelvic disease where operation produces no good effect on the mental symptoms, and two personal observations of this nature are mentioned. The author leans to the opinion—shared by most of the leading British alienists, whom he quotes—that true sexual insanity is very rare. The experience of a number of operators on this point and on the cognate question of post-operative insanity is then summarised. The general conclusion to be drawn from the available facts would appear to be that disease of the generative organs can produce insanity only in predisposed subjects; and that it is in the same class of subjects that operative interference is likely to cause mental disorder.

The paper is an interesting review of the present state of the question treated in somewhat general terms, as is inevitable from the aim and occasion of the address.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Sexual Inversion [Sulla inversione sessuale]. (*Arch. di Psichiat.*,
vol. xxi, fasc. 3.) Celesia, P.

Dr. Celesia opens his paper with a brief account of gynæcomastia, selecting this condition as a typical example of the inversion of somatic sexual characters. The rest of the essay is devoted to establishing an analogy between gynæcomastia and psychic inversion.

Ætiologically three varieties of gynæcomastia are to be distinguished; (a) congenital, (b) infective and traumatic, and (c) correlative. The origin of congenital gynæcomastia is discussed; the hypothesis of reversion to the type of an hermaphrodite ancestor is rejected in favour of the theory of exaggeration of the normal hereditary influence of the female parent. The condition is very much rarer in civilised than in savage races—a difference which might perhaps be explained through natural selection. With regard to acquired gynæcomastia, the temporary

enlargement of the breasts occurring sometimes in measles is mentioned as an example of the infective form, and a case of the traumatic variety is quoted from Laurent—a man of forty years old who, subsequent to a blow on the chest, developed feminine characters in the breasts coincident with testicular atrophy and loss of sexual desire; as bearing on this point, reference is made to Rörig's observation of the growth of horns on the female deer as the result of traumatism. Finally, correlative gynæcomastia is illustrated by the Mexican *mujerados*, in whom artificially induced atrophy of the testicles causes growth of the mammæ, which may even serve for lactation.

Turning to psychic inversion, the author would find in the congenital, or more properly hereditary homosexual tendency the analogy of congenital gynæcomastia, and would therefore assign such psychic inversion to excess of the hereditary influence of the parent of opposite sex. He notes that such cases may also show atavistic characters in the extreme ardour of the abnormal sexual impulse, its association with lust of cruelty, etc. Acquired psychic inversion, again, would be paralleled with acquired gynæcomastia; it would be due to the arousing, through environmental stimuli, of the homosexual tendencies existing in rudiment in all individuals, as the mammæ exist in rudiment in all males. This acquired form does not to the same extent dominate the individual; it does not even exclude always the persistence of the normal heterosexual tendencies. In the congenital inverts, on the contrary, the entire affective and æsthetic life is in harmony with the homosexual nature; this point the author develops in a discussion on homosexuality and artistic genius, suggesting that the abnormal combination of the feminine qualities of emotivity and intuition with masculine intelligence makes for genius in the sexual invert.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Mazoclastm [*Mazoclastia*]. (*Arch. di Psichiat.*, vol. *xxi*, fasc. 3.)
Mariani, C. E.

This is a reference to a recent work of De Blasio (*Inciurmatore, maghi, e streghe di Benevento*), in which that author publishes, from the judicial records of the middle of the last century, an accusation brought against a priest of imposing mutilation of the breasts by the introduction of pins as a penance on the women frequenting his confessional. Mariani supposes that the priest suffered from a form of sexual perversion compounded of sadism and fetishism, and with De Blasio suggests the name of "mazoclastia" for the condition—a somewhat superfluous addition to the technical vocabulary.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

The Pathological Lie [*Ueber die krankhafte Lüge*]. (*Psychiat. Wochens.*, No. 46, Feb. 10th, 1900.) Ranniger.

In this issue, Dr. Ranniger, of Sonnestein Asylum, concludes his study of the pathological lie, publishing another clinical observation bearing on the symptom. The patient, a man æt. 35, was mentally unstable from youth; at twenty-four years of age he had, apparently as a result of syphilis, an attack of apoplexy with left hemiplegia, followed by an out-

break of mania ; eight years later he had another apoplectic attack of the same kind, but less severe. On admission to Sonnestein, his condition was one of mental debility without active symptoms ; some weeks later, he became irritable and refractory, and developed a faculty for exuberant lying, manifested chiefly in letters to his relatives. In these letters, he made calumnious statements about his wife, his father, and other relations ; he imparted false and disagreeable items of news about himself, and he referred to imaginary correspondents, from whose letters and his replies thereto he quoted freely. These fictions had not the character of an organised delirium—the patient's rôle in them, notably, was quite subsidiary ; moreover he repeatedly admitted that his statements were deliberate falsehoods.

From his study of this, and the two cases reported in the first part of his paper, the author concludes that the pathological liar is sometimes quite aware of the falsity of his assertions. This is contrary to the opinion of Delbrück, who regarded the pathological lie as something between the ordinary lie and the delusion—as being, in fact, a lie which eventually deceived its author. Delbrück's and most other published cases were observed, however, *in foro*, where the patients had every motive to represent their fictions as delusional. Ranniger would still regard the lying of his patients as pathological, the characteristics of the morbid lie, in his opinion, being the exuberance of invention which marks it, and—of greater importance—the absence of all sense of shame on detection. Depending on defective development of the higher ethical conceptions and emotions, this symptom is always related to conditions of mental debility. When this debility is also marked in the intellectual sphere, and impairs the individual's judgment, the pathological lies are characteristically absurd.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Religious Emblems as Homicidal Weapons in Religious Insanity [*Les objets de piété comme instruments de meurtre dans le délire religieux*].
(*Arch. de Neur.*, April, 1900.) Cullercc, A.

This paper contains notes of three cases in which patients suffering from acute hallucinatory insanity with mystical delusions and homicidal impulses selected religious emblems as instruments of murder. The author points out that the suicides, homicides, and auto-mutilations occurring in religious insanity very often evidence a symbolic tendency in some of their details ; and he would be disposed to regard the frequent use of the knife by such patients as a result of the ritual associations of that instrument. When the weapon employed is a devotional object, the mystical intent appears unquestionable. In the first observation, the patient, a woman æt. 38, in the course of a hallucinatory attack of the melancholic type, suffocated her baby by thrusting a statue of the Virgin into its mouth ; the act was in obedience to an hallucinatory command. In the second case a man, æt. 29, suffering from hallucinations and delusions of damnation, and of persecution (especially by his parents), attempted, with much deliberation, to brain his father by striking him with a plaster statue of the Virgin. In the third observation a woman, æt. 34, presenting melancholic symptoms

with occasional *raptus*, swallowed part of a metal crucifix, and died from intestinal hæmorrhage set up thereby. In this case the mystical significance of the act was placed beyond doubt by the patient's statement that she swallowed the crucifix to preserve her from the devil. All the patients were degenerates with hereditary taint.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Partial Cure of a Congenital Criminal [Una semi-guargione di criminale-nato]. (Arch. di Psichiat., vol. xx, fasc. 4.) Lombroso.

This is a record of a case submitted for Lombroso's opinion by the Governor of Colorado, U.S.A. The criminal, Anthony Mooday, a boy æt. 11, murdered a man in order to steal his watch; when detected, he endeavoured to represent the occurrence as an accident. The paper gives a short autobiography of the criminal, some remarks on his behaviour in prison during the five years which have elapsed since the crime, and photographs (face and profile) of the boy at the time of the murder and at present. From these materials Lombroso feels justified in formulating the diagnosis and prognosis of the case, in accordance with the theories of the Italian school: the precocity of the crime, its motive and method, the facial and cranial characters of the murderer indicate that he is a "congenital criminal;" on the other hand, his good conduct in prison, and the improvement in his physiognomy which Lombroso discovers in the later photographs, show that he is capable of becoming an "honest man," but some peculiarities in his handwriting and a certain exaggerated vanity manifest in his autobiography prove that his recovery is imperfect—a characteristic example of Lombroso's methods.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Opium-smokers [Fumeurs et fumeuses d'opium]. (Rev. de l'Hyp., April, 1900.) Bérillon.

Opium smoking seems to be on the increase in Paris; and, as the smoking is carried on in private apartments, those who reside in them become intoxicated by the fumes. This occurred in the case of a young woman who prepared her husband's pipes, so that a craving was induced. To obtain sleep she became dependent upon opium-smoking and the atmosphere created by another smoker. Very soon symptoms of intoxication appeared—hysterical convulsions, neurasthenic anxiety, paralysis of will, excessive timidity, etc. Treated by hypnotic suggestion, she gave up opium-smoking and got well. Bérillon observes incidentally that the cat of the house and a servant who lived in the room exhibited signs of craving after the opium-smoking had ceased there.

H. J. MACEVOY.

Physicians as Expert Witnesses. (Med.-Legal Journ., vol. xvii, No. 1, 1899.) Wollman.

These are comments on those defects of physicians as expert witnesses which most strike a practising lawyer in America. The critic's remedy for the evil of partisan expert evidence appears to be a suggestion from

the "trust" system : the medical societies of each locality are to combine and to select from their members a limited number, to whom alone they give authorisation to appear as expert witnesses.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Corporal Punishments for Crime. (Med.-Legal Journ., vol. xvii, No. 1, 1899.) Baldwin, Clark Bell, and others.

This subject is discussed in a number of papers read before the Medico-Legal Society of New York. The opinions expressed for and against the application of whipping and castration to criminals are supported by considerations of the theological and sentimental order, with much appeal to political and colour feeling. The discussion is without scientific interest.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

8. Asylum Reports.

*The Insane in India: Indian Asylum Reports for 1899.
Bombay Presidency.*

WE have been favoured with a copy of the report of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay to the Chief Secretary to Government, General Department. From it we propose to reproduce a number of paragraphs, avoiding all criticism, and contenting ourselves to allow the extracts to speak as to the present condition and administration of Indian asylums.

The only alterations carried out in the Ahmedabad Lunatic Asylum during the year under report were the addition of iron-barred doors to six cells for dangerous lunatics.

There was one case of escape from the Colába Lunatic Asylum on the night of July 17th, 1899. This man was a criminal lunatic, who was sent on June 27th, 1899, from the Ahmedabad Central Prison under sentence of transportation for life for murder. He was remarkable for the obstinacy with which he refused food, and had to be forcibly fed. He was from the very commencement under lock and key in a barred and bolted cell and gallery, and was never allowed into the grounds. It appears that by leverage he bent the bolt of the lock of his cell, reaching it easily through the bars of his door. He was thus free to enter the gallery, where there are eight windows, all closed by vertical iron bars an inch in diameter. He bent one of these iron bars sufficiently to wrench it from its socket; and, once in the grounds, escape was very easy, owing to constructional facilities. A police investigation of the circumstances was made, but without avail. Two night watchmen make the round of every part of the asylum every two hours, one for the European, and the other for the native sides. Just outside the gallery where this insane was confined, and commanding a full view of it, are stationed five warders, who take it in turn to be on guard for two hours each—to give water, help epileptic insanes, keep order, and generally to exercise supervision. These men, it should be observed, have to take their turn of night watching in addition to day duty.

Statement No. 7 gives the alleged causes of insanity among the